

Wannabe mayors off to the races
Ammiano, Alioto kick-offs next week;
Leal and Newsom to host parties.

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The bears are back in town
BOSF's 9th annual Int'l
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Star power at SF Ballet
Helgi Tomasson's dancers
step up to the plate.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 7 • 13 February 2003

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Gay club's closure creates void on Saturday nights

by Matthew S. Bajko

The closing of Palladium this weekend marks the first time in more than a decade that San Francisco will be without a major club hosting weekly Saturday night dance parties for gay men.

Seven months ago Gus Bean launched the club amid much hoopla just weeks after the closing of Audrey Joseph's Club Townsend, the host to the long-running weekly Club Universe and Pleasuredome parties. At the time, Bean said he hoped to revive the city's nightlife and "showcase weekly performances by the hottest deejays, sexiest strippers, raunchiest show-offs, midjets, monsters, hustlers, and freaks."

While he was able to attract big-name talent in the club scene, such as DJs Victor Calderone, Susan Morabito, Tracy Young, and Paulo, in the end the club failed to generate the kind of energy and devotion Bean was used to at his monthly parties such as Mass and Sanctuary.

"I think Palladium was more of a liability than an asset to my party arsenal, so it is on to the next show," said Bean, owner of Gus Presents and the club space at 550 Barneveld. "It wasn't nearly as fulfilling personally and financially as I had anticipated."

While Joseph is planning to launch a new nightclub in the South of Market District sometime in April, the last dance at Palladium will take place this Saturday night, February 15.

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Gay Shame takes Newsom and the LGBT center to task

by Zak Szymanski

What started as a protest on behalf of the have-nots quickly escalated into violence and controversy, and has once again become a debate about the exclusivity of the LGBT community and San Francisco politics at large.

On Thursday, February 6, between 40 and 60 demonstrators from Gay Shame, a group that sometimes uses radical tactics not unlike the early days of the gay civil rights movement, congregated outside the LGBT Community Center to protest Supervisor Gavin Newsom, who was hosting an event to raise money for the center.

Gay Shame participants were protesting Newsom's Care Not Cash initiative, which cuts General Assistance payments to the homeless and requires many recipients to stay in shelters that are not always deemed safe for women and queers. Voters passed the measure last November. Demonstrators also



Gay Shamer Thea Jennings was injured during the melee with police on Thursday, February 6 at the LGBT center.

took issue with the center hosting what they called a political appearance designed to exploit the powerful gay vote; Newsom is run-

ning for mayor and in order to win, say activists, he must take gay votes away from LGBT candidates such as Supervisor Tom Ammiano and city Treasurer Susan Leal.

There are different accounts of what happened during last week's demonstration, but what is indisputable is that protesters and police officers clashed, and several people were injured.

Police also arrested four people, two of whom had faced charges of felony lynching, which according to Public Defender Jeff Adachi is a more serious term for resisting arrest and is an unusual charge to be applied to political demonstrators.

"This is a sad day for San Francisco," Adachi told the crowd at a Gay Shame press conference outside the Hall of Justice on Monday, February 10. "What concerns me is that anybody that participates in a public demonstration could be arrested and face felony charges."

On Tuesday, February 11, District Attorney Terence Hallinan announced that the felony charges would not stand for Jaime

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Armistead Maupin to lead Pride Parade

by Zak Szymanski

Twenty-five is the magic number at this year's San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration. The parade's theme, "You've gotta give them hope," honors the legacy of the late Harvey Milk, who made history when he was sworn in as a supervisor 25 years ago, and again when he was assassinated less than a year later.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of several LGBT milestones, including the first printing of Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* novels, a six-volume series that depicted the lives of gay and straight San Franciscans living in the same apartment complex at 28 Barbary Lane during the 1970s and 1980s. To honor this anniversary, and the man behind it, Maupin has been chosen by San Francisco Pride as this year's Pride Parade celebrity grand marshal.

"It's fitting that we honor Armistead — the writer who created a global audience for San Francisco's unique brand of queer social and sexual liberation," said Pride President Joey Cain.

Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington agreed.

"Armistead's journey, his passions, and the inspiration he has given so many make him a natural choice as celebrity grand marshal," said Witherington. "His panoramic view of humanity is at the very core of what we cele-



Armistead Maupin, right, and Pride's Teddy Witherington last year.

brate at the end of June each year."

Tales of the City became a classic for gays and straights alike, and the books were eventually turned into a television miniseries, which is now available on video. Maupin has remained active in the

San Francisco LGBT community, and is currently involved in various projects, including a stage musical of *Tales* in Chicago, and a film based on his latest novel, *The Night Listener*.

"I just try to write for everyone," said a statement from Maupin on the grand marshal honor. "Every letter of LGBT is represented by the residents of 28 Barbary Lane — with a few good straight folks as well. That's the only way to be free in the end: to be yourself among others who aren't at all like you. I'm always happy to celebrate that idea."

This is the second time Maupin has served as a Pride Parade grand marshal; in 1994 he was an individual marshal in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion.

Individual and organization grand marshal nominees for this year's parade are expected to be announced next week, and public voting will take place next month. Pride takes place over the weekend of June 28 and 29. For more information, visit www.sf-pride.org. ▼

AIDS agency says audit report proves political witch-hunt

by Matthew S. Bajko

Investigators examining whether the Stop AIDS Project violated regulations governing HIV prevention funding have found that the agency was "in substantial compliance" with guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, according to an audit report released this month.

Stop AIDS Project officials contend the findings in the federal review of the agency prove it came under unwarranted attack last year by conservative lawmakers on Capitol Hill looking to defund its programs.

"It was clearly not about public health or even about accountability. It was about politics," Darlene Weide, Stop AIDS Project's executive director, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We agree that agencies receiving federal funds need to be accountable but this investigation was obviously a political red herring."

The federal investigators reviewed 72 workshops and other educational events Stop AIDS presented between January 1 and April 30, 2002. The au-

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Darlene Weide

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Celebrating black history



Rick Gerhardt

Photographer Duane Cramer, left, speaks with Elaine Pruitt and Ursula Smith Sunday, February 9 during a two-day showing of his "Centuries of Blackness," a small collection of Cramer's contemporary work and reproductions of historic images of African Americans, some of which are of his family. Cramer sees the exhibit as his way of celebrating Black History Month, "one that pays tribute and honors our rich and diverse family."

DPH hosts forum on staph infections

by Matthew S. Bajko

As San Francisco health officials prepare to host a community forum to discuss the appearance of a drug resistant staph infection among the city's gay men, new cases of the virulent strain of staph have surfaced on the East Coast.

Boston officials disclosed last week that four gay men in the last four months have sought treatment for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSRA). Boston's Fenway Community Health Center treated three men for MSRA while Massachusetts General Hospital reported doctors have admitted one gay man with MSRA.

In a health advisory released February 5, San Francisco health officials revealed they have been monitoring an increase in soft tissue infections among city jail inmates since early summer of 2002. According to the advisory, 30 percent of cultures have grown MSRA.

The advisory also states that about 25 percent of the city's injection drug users are colonized with staph and one out of five

have the drug-resistant strain. Health officials are currently trying to determine the prevalence of the staph infections in the gay community.

Los Angeles health officials first reported the appearance of the drug resistant staph in gay men earlier this month. They later disclosed the same strain of staph had been found among the city's jail inmates.

The soft tissue infections begin as minor infections such as pimples, boils, or other skin conditions. If not treated properly, they can become filled with pus and require surgical drainage.

Although staph is a bacteria found on the bodies of 20 percent of healthy people, one out of five people have bacteria that may not be killed by the antibiotics usually used to treat the infections. It is this MSRA which has been found in men who have sex with men.

If doctors are unable to treat the infections with lesser used antibiotics, patients must undergo intravenous regimens either administered at home or in the hospital.

As reported in last week's Bay Area Reporter, health officials are alarmed at the finding of MSRA

in gay men, fearful that their lifestyle makes it easy to spread the staph. Individuals can contract the staph through skin to skin contact during sexual intercourse or by coming into contact with contaminated surfaces, such as sauna benches, hot tubs, and athletic equipment.

Health officials advise the best way to prevent getting an infection is to maintain good personal hygiene and to wash skin and hands often. Persons who are very ill or have weakened immune systems are advised not to handle the body fluids of others and to wash their hands frequently.

In order to educate the community about what the city is doing about the MSRA infections, the health department and the LGBT Community Center are hosting a community dialogue this Tuesday, February 18. The event is free and takes place from 7 to 9 p.m.

A panel of infectious disease experts and a person who had the staph will address how the city plans to monitor the staph outbreak and what options exist for prevention and treatment.

The center is located at 1800 Market Street. ▼

Big antiwar protest Sunday

by Liz Highleyman

Antiwar activists are preparing for a huge protest on Sunday, February 16 against the Bush administration's apparent plans for war against Iraq. Assembly will begin at 11 a.m. at the

Embarcadero. The march will begin at 1 p.m. and proceed to Civic Center Plaza for a 2 p.m. rally.

In the rest of the country and throughout the world, a day of antiwar actions called for Saturday, February 15; the largest U.S. protest will take place in New York

City. San Francisco's march and rally were moved to Sunday to accommodate the annual Chinese New Year's Parade.

Scheduled speakers at the rally include labor organizer Dolores Huerta, actor Danny Glover, author Alice Walker, and Congress-

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Creative Castro blood drive calls for peace

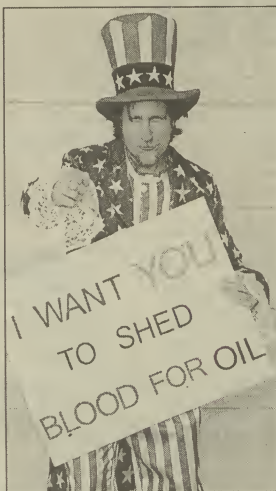
by Zak Szymanski

As more LGBT people join the opposition to America's potential war with Iraq, a small group of activists has chosen the Castro to take a political stand, in more ways than one.

The "Blood for Oil" blood drive, organized by Julie Walcer and Nicole Karam (who are Jewish and Arab-American, respectively), will take place at 18th and Castro streets this Saturday, February 15 from 1-5 p.m. A parked bloodmobile will recruit volunteers to donate blood, and activists will give all donors a free pint of motor oil in exchange.

"We wanted to combat the critical Bay Area blood shortage and voice our opposition to combat in Iraq," said Walcer, who is a lesbian. "We're calling on all the local bleeding hearts to shed a little blood to help prevent the spilling of more."

The blood-for-oil exchange, said Karam, will help draw attention to the economic factors drawing the U.S. toward war. And the Castro location, said Walcer, is deliberate for a couple of reasons. For one, it will draw attention to



Promo photo for Castro blood drive.

the discriminatory gay blood ban.

The gay blood ban, in effect since the early days of the AIDS crisis in 1985, stipulates that any man who has had sex with a man since 1977 – even once – cannot donate blood. The ban does not factor in a gay donor's HIV status, and does not apply to the most promiscuous of heterosexuals.

Another goal of the blood

drive, said Walcer, is to demonstrate a queer presence for peace.

"Sometimes the gay movement is perceived as only dealing with their own interests. We'd like to show up in the Castro and make our voices heard," said Walcer, who does expect some gay patriots to take issue with the event. Interestingly, said Walcer, some peace activists took issue with an "Uncle Sam" photo promoting the event, apparently mistaking the sarcasm for a pro-war stance. But addressing the blood shortage and hoping for peace, said Walcer, is the true motivation behind the event.

"I'm concerned about the blood shortage in my city and the warmongering in my country. I thought participating in this blood drive was a great way to kill two birds with one stone, particularly if one is a war hawk," she said.

A blood drive, said Walcer, also underscores a fundamental truth about humanity.

"We all bleed the same," she said, "and we need to depend on one another to ensure our own survival."

Dozens of blood donors have already signed up for the event, but drop-ins from eligible donors are encouraged. To sign up, e-mail blood4oilSF@hotmail.com. For more information, call (415) 826-4939. ▼

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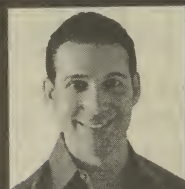
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MECA members to don wedding gowns Friday

by Joe Dignan

This Friday, Valentine's Day, your chances of meeting a woman in a wedding dress while riding BART will be much higher than usual.

While February 14 is a day for budding romances, fueled by Hallmark-inspired sentiments like, "Although I don't always tell you in so many words, I love you in so many ways," or "Kisses are the language of love, want to indulge in a little conversation?" for many gay and lesbian people, Valentine's Day is a reminder that love each other though we may, the laws of California consider gay relationships to be inferior to those between straight people.

That's why the wedding dresses will be in evidence. Members of Marriage Equality California, many of them in wedding garb, will spend their Valentine's Day riding BART to rallies in front of the city halls in Berkeley, Oakland, and San Francisco. MECA sponsored

resolutions this week in San Francisco and Berkeley urging the state government to allow same-sex marriage, and Oakland is considering a similar measure.

In San Francisco, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the resolution on Tuesday, February 11. Supervisor Tom Ammanno authored it.

"I think it's a good organizational tool. It keeps the fire burning under this issue. Any steps we take are incremental. No matter how long it takes this issue is not going to go away until it's resolved," he said.

The rallies will start at 9 a.m. on the steps of Berkeley City Hall, with speakers Geoff Koss, of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality; out gay Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington; and MECA board member Molly McKay.

At noon the group will move to San Francisco City Hall — by BART — to hear Ammanno and Kate Kendell of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

At 3:30 p.m., it's back on BART to Oakland City Hall, where openly gay City Council member Danny Wan will address the rally.

CAPE is sponsoring AB205, authored by Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), which would give California domestic partners many of the same rights as married couples. MECA supports the bill, but says it's not enough.

Members say that even if the bill passes, gay couples will still not have the thousand or so federal rights that go along with marriage. The most important of these, they say, are immigration rights (the ability to sponsor your partner as a citizen), portability (as partners move from state to state), and the ability to pay federal taxes jointly with a partner.

McKay said that Goldberg's bill is an "important interim step because many of the state's politicians are shying away from the 'm' word. While a comprehensive domestic partnership bill will be a step in the right direction, it's not equality." ▼

Medical pot actions planned

by Liz Highleyman

Medical cannabis activists will hold a week of actions to call attention to the federal government's escalating attack on medical marijuana patients and providers. The events start Saturday, February 15 and continue through February 22.

The starting date was to commemorate Proposition 215, California's 1996 medical marijuana ballot initiative.

Americans for Safe Access, the grassroots medical marijuana advocacy group spearheading the effort, encouraged supporters to wear green ribbons throughout the week.

On Tuesday, February 18, the main nationwide day of action, many cities will hold "Evict the DEA" protests at local Drug Enforcement Administration offices or other federal buildings. As a follow-up to last June's day of action — during which activists in 54 cities served their local DEA or federal offices with "cease and desist" notices — activists are expect-

ed to engage in direct action and present eviction notices.

In the Bay Area, there will be noon rallies at both the Oakland Federal Building at 1301 Clay Street and the San Francisco Federal Building at 450 Golden Gate Avenue.

Although the California Supreme Court has upheld Proposition 215, also known as the Compassionate Use Act, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in May 2001 that marijuana distribution is illegal under all circumstances, and the DEA has closed medical cannabis dispensaries throughout the state.

Most recently, on January 31, a federal jury in San Francisco convicted Ed Rosenthal, who was deputized by the city of Oakland to grow marijuana for patients. But a majority of the jurors — who said they did not receive complete information about the case — have denounced the verdict and asked for a new trial for Rosenthal. Some 40 other patients and providers face federal drug charges related to medical cannabis.

Other San Francisco activities during the week include a press

conference on Saturday, February 15, at noon in front of the conservatory in Golden Gate Park. Activists will announce a plan to plant 215,000 cannabis seedlings. That afternoon, they plan to install a marijuana leaf banner on the top of Twin Peaks. There will also be a kick-off party at 8 p.m. at the Compassion and Care Center at 122 10th Street.

On Thursday, February 20, activists plan to dress up as Senator Dianne Feinstein and rally at noon outside the San Francisco Democrat's district office at 1 Post Street (at Market) to demand her support in defending Proposition 215 against the federal government; participants are urged to wear red business-style dresses.

The week will conclude on Saturday, February 22 with a series of workshops and talks, a 2 p.m. medical marijuana march through the Castro — featuring a Dennis Peron look-alike contest honoring the cannabis club pioneer — and an evening party at the 350 Divisadero dispensary.

For more information visit www.safeaccessnow.org. ▼

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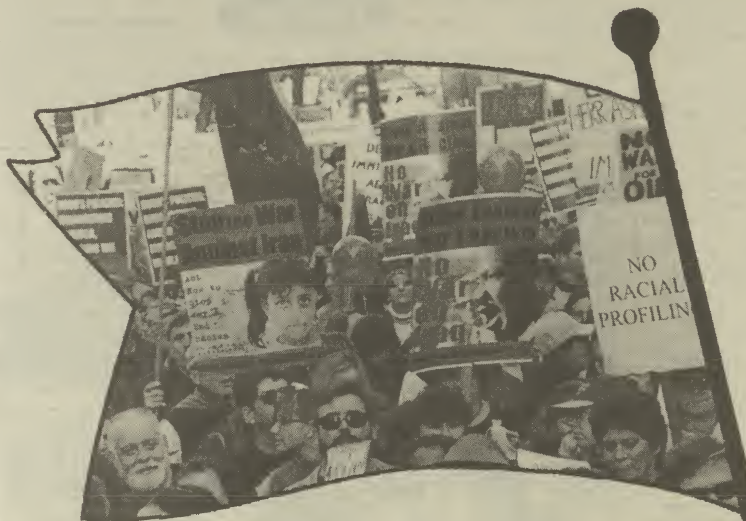
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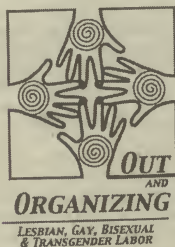
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Volume 33, Number 7
13 February 2003**PUBLISHER**
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Leno's fumble

We can't recall an instance in which we've disagreed with Assemblyman Mark Leno. We strongly backed the Democratic former San Francisco supervisor in his successful bid for higher office, and we're pleased to see that he's off to a strong start in Sacramento. He's already introduced legislation to ban gender-based discrimination in housing and employment for transgenders. Additionally, Leno is an active member of the new LGBT Caucus, and will work hard to secure passage of Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg's (D-Los Angeles) sweeping bill to expand rights for registered domestic partners. He remains fully committed to state and local government efforts to implement Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative.

That said, however, we must take exception to one of Leno's pet projects (no pun intended) — his attempt to get Sacramento County officials to end a contract that allows the selling of some animals to the University of California, Davis for research. According to media reports, Leno paid a high-profile visit last week to a Sacramento County animal shelter to publicize his efforts. At a time when there's more than enough work for Leno to do in his own 13th Assembly District (as well as working with fellow legislators to solve the state's whopping budget deficit), we are disappointed that he has taken on an out-of-town issue, the merits of which, in our opinion, are somewhat questionable.

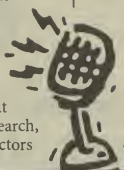
We love animals as much as anyone, and yes, the photo of the cute, cuddly kitten that accompanied the *San Francisco Chronicle* story on Leno's visit tugs at the heartstrings; but as an openly gay politician who lost a lover to AIDS, Leno should be aware of the benefits that animal research has had on improving the lives of many. Human lives can be saved through animal research. The American Psychological Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the American Veterinary Medical Association have all issued

statements affirming the essential need for humane and responsible animal research. We'll likely incur the wrath of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, but with the AIDS epidemic still a fact of life (not to mention breast cancer, lymphoma, and other diseases), continued medical research is needed, and sometimes that involves animals. One course at UC Davis focuses on soft tissue research, which could potentially benefit doctors treating the new drug resistant staph infection that has been seen in gay men here and in other cities.

Aside from the benefits of animal research, however, there is another important issue raised with Leno's visit to the Sacramento shelter: the politics of the situation. Leno's

move could be viewed by fellow lawmakers as impolitic. After all, Sacramento has its own Assembly delegation as well as local officials who are in the position to take up local matters. Leno's visit could even alienate potential allies through unnecessary grandstanding. And Leno knows all too well about outsiders trying to tell the locals what to do; he has repeatedly stood against the federal government's efforts to quash medical marijuana and has been critical of the feds coming in and telling San Franciscans what to do. Now, he appears to be doing the same thing.

We supported Leno for the state Assembly because we knew he would work hard for San Francisco's interests. His foray into Sacramento politics last week is not what we had in mind. ▼



Editorial



Lean times reason for cuts

by Russ Testa and Paul Wisotzky

Last week, the *Bay Area Reporter* ran a guest opinion ["*Carpenterbaggers chop AIDS services*," February 6] by Patrick Monette-Shaw filled with false characterizations of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and its global affiliate, the Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation. Given the extent of the inaccuracies, we felt compelled to respond.

After careful study that began nearly four years ago, the SFAF board determined that SFAF should play a role in combating the global pandemic. Pangaea was formed with clear direction from the board that its work must not detract from our local work, but instead enhance it. This critical guiding principle remains intact today.

Mr. Monette-Shaw has a long history of incorrectly portraying SFAF, as well as the S.F. Department of Public Health, the Ryan White CARE Council, and other AIDS service organizations. Over the past three years, we have received countless requests for information from Mr. Monette-Shaw. Our responses have been mischaracterized by him routinely in e-mail blasts, letters, and other publications.

Last week's guest opinion piece continues Mr. Monette-Shaw's history of misrepresentation. In particular, the following corrections are noteworthy:

- SFAF never received a "windfall" of \$380,000 from the city in November 2002 or at any other time. Last year, the S.F. Department of Public Health proposed a cut to HIV peer and emotional support of \$383,179 out of a total contract of \$758,040. Fortunately, these cuts did not take place. The amount the city contract provided for these services remained essentially flat funded with a modest cost of living increase of about \$7,600 — there was no "windfall."

- The budget gap SFAF faced was not caused by Pangaea's global work. Pangaea's budget is separate from SFAF's. In the summer of 2001 (pre-9/11 and the economic downturn), SFAF provided Pangaea \$1 mil-

lion in one-time start-up funds. This year, in its second year of operation, Pangaea has secured resources that cover its own costs.

- A grant SFAF receives on behalf of Pangaea from Pfizer pays for all of Pangaea's work in Uganda — no resources are "diverted" from our local work for this purpose. In fact, Pfizer provides these resources upfront to support the Uganda project so that we never have to use local resources.

- In the fiscal year that ended in June 2002, Pangaea received \$5.9 million in grants (not the \$8.78 million erroneously reported by Mr. Monette-Shaw). This amount included the start-up funds and Pfizer grants mentioned above, as well as grants from the AIDS Marathon to support projects in South Africa, Rwanda, and Uganda.

- We have always been clear that the largest percentage of the AIDS Marathon proceeds go to SFAF, with the balance going to Bay Area AIDS programs, and to global treatment and vaccine efforts. We have never tried to hide the fact that a portion of the AIDS Marathon proceeds funds global HIV projects. On the contrary, we are proud of it.

- The executive director's salary (which is \$162,804 as opposed to the \$182,188 reported) is paid for by SFAF. The executive director does not receive a second salary from Pangaea, nor does anyone else.

- The budget for our needle exchange program, SFAF HIV Prevention Project, was combined with SFAF this year due to a merger of these two organizations. This was not to hide budget changes, as alleged, but because our successful state advocacy legalized needle exchange, which made two organizations unnecessary.

- Contrary to Mr. Monette-Shaw's accusations, there are no "missing assets" at the foundation. The decline in net assets over the past two years is a fact well documented in our annual audit. The largest cause of this decline was the funding hit SFAF took last

year in making the ethical decision to disengage from the California AIDS Ride and create AIDS/LifeCycle. Sustaining SFAF's operations during that period caused a deficit in our operations that resulted in a planned and well documented decline in net assets.

SFAF's budget shortfall is a result of the bleak economy and its impact on fundraising and government support. We are not unique in facing the challenges posed by these harsh economic times. Sadly, we are one of many AIDS service organizations challenged to respond to a growing epidemic in an era of scarce resources.

It is untrue and irresponsible for Mr. Monette-Shaw to suggest that the difficult choices we have made are the result of anything

other than the sharp economic downturn. For Mr. Monette-Shaw to accuse us in the name of "accountability" of trying to hide or siphon money away from our local work is ludicrous. We have nothing to hide. Indeed, SFAF is one of the few AIDS organizations in the country that provides ready access to our audit and tax filing on our Web site. We place a high value on meaningful accountability.

During these grave economic times, we are making difficult decisions on how to preserve essential services for those most in need. These decisions are never easy, yet we are proud of the continuing leadership and quality services that we provide. We remain committed to ending the pandemic and the human suffering caused by HIV and are grateful and heartened by the Bay Area's support of the local and global fight against AIDS. This community continues to be a beacon of hope for the world. ▼

Russ Testa is the chair of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Board of Directors; Paul Wisotzky is the chair of the Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation's Board of Directors and a person living with AIDS.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Holiday for murderer?

First, the folks from Gay Shame burned rainbow flags in the Castro. Next, they tried to disrupt a fundraiser for the new LGBT Community Center. What's next on their agenda, making Dan White's birthday a holiday?

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

'Sensational' article

The Matthew S. Bajko article on staph infections [*"Drug resistant staph infections appear in gay men," February 6*] was needlessly sensational and another blanket indictment of gay men on health issues. Staphylococcal bacteria are harmlessly present on the skin of most people whether gay, straight, or whatever. What is implicit in this article is that gay men should not touch each other for fear of contracting another dreaded disease.

I would much prefer to see the B.A.R. and other gay publications expose their readers to proven alternative therapies instead of the same sorry pushing of fear and drugs as an answer for medical issues. I have personal positive experience with diet and water fasting to defeat skin infection, etc. It takes common sense and courage to take charge of our health and stop listening to the pill pushers.

An exposé of the horrendously rampant popper use (to name the worst) among gay men is not likely in your paper. Kicking sacred cows like HIV and poppers is apparently not of interest to you.

The eventual collapse of the current medical system may prove to be the antidote to "drug resistant" hokey. The sooner the better.

Jerry McPherson
Oakland, California

[Editor's note: We ran a story on the federal government's crackdown on poppers in the August 29, 2002 issue.]

Info for Pride director

Memo to Teddy Witherington [*"Duffy criticized for 'closed door' meeting about Halloween," February 6*]:

1. Pink Saturday in the Castro is fully embraced by MUMC and we actively encourage our members to decorate their stores for that day.

2. The Sisters' Easter party is so old news. In fact, a member of the Sisters currently sits on MUMC's board.

3. I don't recall over the past three years encountering you in the Castro on Halloween night during my nearly all night walks through the neighborhood. It is not our heads that are stuck in the sand.

Patrick Batt, President
Merchants of Upper Market and Castro

Advice for Pride director

I am writing in reference to Joe Dignan's article in the February 6 issue of the B.A.R. regarding a planning meeting for this year's Halloween celebration in the Castro. I find it ironic that the method by which Teddy Witherington learned of a meeting held by committees of MUMC and EVPA (through a free and open sharing of information) is the exact thing he criticizes the groups of not doing. Rather than sit on the sidelines and throw stones, Mr. Witherington should embrace the efforts of concerned merchants and residents who got an early start on addressing what has turned into a dangerous event in our neighborhood. Even more shocking is Mr. Witherington's attempt at drawing Supervisor Duffy into the fray by accusing him of holding a "closed door" meeting simply because he attended this joint committee meeting of the groups. Does Teddy think that this is the best way to work with the city, and get them to commit more resources to this event? Sounds like the one with his "head in the sand" is Mr. Witherington.

Herb Cohn
San Francisco

Pride director welcome

I am responding to the article in last week's paper by Joe Dignan regarding the "closed door" meeting between EVPA, MUMC, and Supervisor Bevan Duffy.

Mr. Witherington's comments are completely out of proportion not to mention factually inaccurate. The only thing that he has stated correctly is that there was a meeting between EVPA and MUMC regarding Halloween in the Castro and Supervisor Duffy did stop by. Witherington's position that this meeting was a "subterranean" attempt to advance an agenda is so far off the mark it is ludicrous.

I was the EVPA representative at that meeting. The agenda was to open a dialogue between neighborhood groups regarding a plan for Halloween this year. His accusation of a "closed door" meeting is completely untrue. Representatives from other neighborhood groups showed up at the meeting and both they and their comments were welcomed and encouraged. If Mr. Witherington had done so he would have been

treated with the same respect.

His statement that EVPA's position is to oppose any street events in the neighborhood is again, not true. EVPA's long history of participating in the Castro Street Fair is proof that the organization supports large-scale, safe public events. EVPA's position has been and will continue to be that Halloween will always draw people to the Castro, but that last year's violence, including multiple stabbings was not acceptable.

Since Halloween 2003 falls on a Friday night, it is likely that even more outsiders will flock to the neighborhood, which could compound the problem. EVPA wants to work toward a safe, fun event that does not leave the neighborhood looking like a disaster area the next day. What EVPA and others are opposed to, is the out of control, dangerous event that Halloween has become over the past few years.

Rather than contacting EVPA or MUMC about the meeting and his desire to be a part of future plans, he chose to run to the media and engage in antics that have since stalled the discussions regarding Halloween. I hope that he is able to acknowledge that his statements and name calling were an overreaction and become a part of meaningful and respectful discussion regarding this event. EVPA would welcome his participation.

Finally, EVPA is grateful for Supervisor Duffy's leadership in making Halloween a city-sponsored event that will be enjoyable for visitors, neighborhood residents, and local merchants alike.

Andrew Bertagnoli
EVPA Safety Committee Chair

Sounds of silence

In last month's State of the Union, before a national audience, Bush proposed spending \$10 billion in new funding to combat AIDS overseas. However, when his budget emerged this month, only

\$450 million was proposed. Telling lies to us all.

On January 31 Ed Rosenthal was found guilty after facing a federal jury on charges of cultivating marijuana. The judge did not allow the jury to hear that Mr. Rosenthal was an officer deputized by the city of Oakland for growing medical cannabis. [*"Jurors: We were duped," February 6*]. He now faces a minimum of 5 years. Another instance of keeping the information from the people.

When Colin Powell gave a presentation to the U.N. on February 5, only "his" message was aired on the local TV stations. Why did the huge media conglomerates not continue the coverage and allow the voices of other countries to be heard? It was to silence the voice of dissent. To keep the information from the people.

These are the sounds of silence. The U.S. government knows that information is power which is why they are using the lack of information as their first weapon against us.

If we are going to keep Bush from railroading the Patriot Act II (which is ready to be implemented as soon as he invades Iraq) through Congress, we had better speak up now. The Patriot Act II (available at www.pbs.org, see Bill Moyers's show *Now*), is already drafted, and takes away all civil liberties. We will no longer have to be foreign born, or be non-white. And when we are arrested, we disappear. There will no longer be laws protecting us with a right to a lawyer, or rights to a fair trial. There will be no trials.

Sound familiar? It should. It happened in Germany in the 1940s.

France and Germany have long been allies of the United States, and now Bush is calling them our enemies. Why? Because they don't agree with his plan to bomb Baghdad with "up to 800 cruise missiles in the first two days of an attack" (*New Yorker* magazine). Imagine if 800 cruise missiles hit any U.S. city. What if all the countries who didn't agree with our government attacked the U.S.? This madness has to stop.

On February 16, we may have one of our last chances as LGBT and freedom loving people to end the silence and protest this administration going to war. Bush has already implemented code orange. As soon as he invades Iraq, it will be code red and then all bets are off. Everyone who cherishes democracy and freedom and human life should show up at the mass march on Sunday February 16, Embarcadero and Market streets, 11 a.m., marching to a rally at Civic Center. If you are unable to be at the event, you can listen to the rally at 1:30 on KPFA radio 94.1 FM.

Robert Meslinsky
San Francisco

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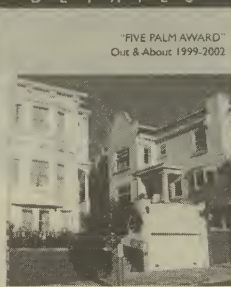
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What is the history of gay bookstores?

by Liz Highleyman

From their earliest days, gay bookstores served as community centers, and their merchandise provided many queer people with the first affirmations of their identity. Today, despite the challenges of economic change and an evolving queer movement, these stores remain important community institutions. In the words of gay author Michael Thomas Ford, "There's more to be found in a gay bookstore than just something nice to read."

Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop in New York City's Greenwich Village is the world's oldest gay bookstore. Named for the late-19th century playwright imprisoned for sodomy, the store was opened in the fall of 1967 by Craig Rodwell, a former lover of Harvey Milk and a well-known community activist. Initially located on Mercer Street near New York University, it moved to a row house on Christopher Street in the West Village in 1973. The store — which proudly sported a window sticker proclaiming "Gay is Good" — served as a center of gay organizing nearly two years before the Stonewall riots. The first of what would become annual Gay Pride marches commemorating Stonewall was planned at Oscar Wilde in 1970.

The earliest gay bookstores were laborers of love, and many of the first queer booksellers — like Rodwell — were community activists. In the early 1970s, Deacon Maccubbin began selling the *Advocate* and a few gay books from Earthworks, his head shop and crafts store in Washington, D.C.'s Dupont Circle area. By 1974 he

had enough money and inventory to open a bookstore, Lambda Rising, across the hall in the same building. A hub of radical organizing, over the years the building also housed the Gay Switchboard, the Yippies, the Black Panther defense committee, and the *Gay Blade* (later the *Washington Blade*) newspaper. Maccubbin recalls, "We used to joke that the building was only held together by all the wiretaps the FBI had placed there."

In Toronto, Jerald Moldenhauer first sold queer publications from a backpack at gay liberation meetings and later from his communal house (also an early home of Canada's *The Body* magazine). He opened the first Glad Day bookstore in the city in 1972 and a branch in Boston in 1979. In the 1980s and 1990s, Glad Day — along with Little Sisters Book and Art Emporium in Vancouver — was repeatedly targeted for censorship by Canadian customs officials. After several lawsuits, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in 2000 that customs had unfairly discriminated against gay-themed materials.

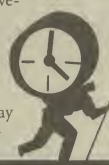
The early world of gay bookstores was a small one. Ed Hermance, who founded Giovanni's Room in Philadelphia in 1973, recalls that Rodwell helped him buy books and even drove them to his store. Later Hermance imported books from Europe for other gay bookstores, including *A Different Light*, started by Richard Labonte, Norman Laurila, and George Leigh in the Silver Lake district of Los Angeles in 1979. Labonte had met Laurila as a customer at Toronto's Glad Day, where Laurila was a manager. The three men would later open branches of *A Different Light* in New York City, San Francisco, and West Hollywood.

Over the years gay bookstores played a key role in the explosion of queer publishing. When Oscar Wilde opened, the store stocked a mere two dozen titles. Lambda Rising started with an inventory of just 250 books, and *A Different Light* carried about 900 titles its first year. "Gay books were so hard to find that whenever somebody brought out another title, we were thrilled," Labonte remembers. In 1979 only about 150 new gay books were published.

But as gay literature became more marketable, non-gay merchants began to stock queer books, and mainstream publishers began to sign more queer authors. During the "gay book boom" of the mid-1980s through mid-1990s, the number of titles published skyrocketed to 1,500 a year.

Today, large bookstore chains present increasing competition to independent booksellers, and the Internet allows customers to purchase queer literature discreetly, regardless of where they live. Gone are the days when queer people in small towns had to stock up on gay books and magazines during occasional trips to the big city. Many gay bookstores have closed. It was reported last month that Oscar Wilde would close, however, the shop got a last-minute reprieve when Lambda Rising agreed to take over the store's name, location, and operations.

Yet gay bookstores are far from being relics of the past. Just to enter one is still a milestone for many gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people as they come out, and queer tourists still often make the local gay bookstore their first stop when visiting a new city. Lambda Rising (now with four branches), *A Different Light* in San Francisco and West Hollywood, and Glad Day in Toronto are among a number of stores that remain successful. ▼



Past Out

cisco, and West Hollywood.

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The writer thanks Richard Labonte and Norman Laurila for information they provided for this column.

Suggested reading

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POLITICS

President Bush: Time is running out for Iraq

by Wayne Friday

According to recent polls, most Americans now agree that the Iraq regime of **Saddam Hussein** is clearly in violation of the United Nations' resolutions to disarm; in fact, Hussein appears intent on expanding his array of weapons of mass destruction. This much was probably clear long before Secretary of State **Colin Powell** laid out the case for **George Bush's** war against Iraq at the U.N. Security Council last week. But, fear not, the determined Bush and the trigger-happy Secretary of Defense **Donald Rumsfeld** are headed to a military showdown with Iraq.

Despite the fact that even U.N. Secretary-General **Kofi Annan** was publicly telling the White House this week not to go it alone, not to attack Hussein without the full approval of the U.N. Security Council, the time has almost certainly passed for Bush to change his mind. Indeed, even the most optimistic would now agree that nothing less than Hussein showing up at the Baghdad airport this weekend promising to immediately and forever go into exile would keep Bush, Rumsfeld, and company from going to war. For what, oil?

Some claim that indeed it's all about Bush gaining control of Iraq's oil fields—like, if he can get the oil then consumer confidence will be restored and the economy would improve, putting Bush back in favor with the American voters just in time for the 2004 election. Far-fetched, you say? Maybe, but I'm not too sure.

Pro-U.S. leaders in Eastern Europe and Britain say Powell more than made his case, while critics—some anti-war, and some just plain anti-American—dismissed Powell's case as propaganda. Those in the middle like France and Russia said Powell presented reasons inspections should be beefed up, not halted.

Powell and Bush have yet to convince much of the international community that it is too late for diplomacy and that time has run out for Hussein, but the secretary of state's speech last week did seem to quell some skepticism among Bush critics in Congress who had voiced fears that he was rushing to war.

"I no longer think inspections are going to work," Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) told reporters after hearing Powell's presentation. Feinstein said war could be avoided only if Hussein immediately reverses himself and actively complies with the U.N. demands that he disarm. Though Feinstein said she had remained unpersuaded about the need for a U.S.-led war after hearing Bush's State of the Union address, her skepticism appeared to buckle under the weight of Powell's speech which was buttressed with satellite images, clandestine recordings of conversations among Iraqi officials, and other intelligence.

"This was probably the most evidence-packed speech I've ever heard," Feinstein said.

Senator **John F. Kerry** (D-Massachusetts), a leading contender for his party's 2004 presidential nomination, said, "If Saddam Hussein does not immediately disarm, he will have chosen to make regime change the ultimate weapons enforcement mechanism."

Kerry and Feinstein were among those Democrats who backed the resolution Congress approved last October authorizing Bush to use military force against Iraq if diplomacy ultimately failed, but they had voiced some degree of skepticism recently about the Bush administration policy on Iraq.

Even some congressional Democrats who outwardly oppose the war such as Senator

Richard Durbin (D-Illinois), called the Powell presentation "compelling." Senator **Edward Kennedy** (D-

Massachusetts), another critic of the Bush policy,

credited Powell for a "strong case" but still called on Bush to explain strategy for a potential invasion of Iraq and its post-war governance, asking, too, for the administration to advise the public how many lives—civilian and military—could be at risk in the event of a war.

Kennedy has been arguing for a new debate in Congress before any military action, but views such as his are getting overlooked by a bipartisan desire among many in Congress to close ranks with the president.

Other Democrats vying for the presidential nomination like Representative **Richard Gephardt** (Missouri), and Senators **Joseph Lieberman** (Connecticut) and **John Edwards** (North Carolina) also issued statements of support. Is war against Iraq imminent? You can probably bet money on it, unless Hussein heads for the airport with his family and top aides—fast. Many White House and Pentagon observers are predicting the first bombs will be dropped during early March.



D.A. candidate Kamala Harris

Politics and people

The campaign of Deputy City Attorney **Kamala Harris** to become the next district attorney looks to be off to a good start as evidenced by the first campaign financial reporting. Harris, once an assistant D.A. and a very bright young woman, leads both the incumbent, **Terence Hallinan** and his two-time opponent, **Bill Fazio**, by better than double in early reports. The *San Francisco Chronicle's* **Phil Matier** and

Andy Ross reported Sunday that Harris has raised \$100,560, according to campaign filings covering July 1-December 31 2002. Hallinan raised \$42,847, while Fazio pulled in just \$1,001. Apparently, those who truly want a new direction in the top prosecutor's office and who are looking to find a winner in that race are lining up behind Harris; among her early supporters are Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) and respected, well-known attorneys like **John Keker** and **Angela Bradstreet**.

This just in: Don't be surprised if gay former KOFY-TV (now WB 20) owner **Jim Gabbert** tosses his hat into the ring for San Francisco mayor. Gabbert sold the station to Granite Broadcasting Corp. for \$174 million in 1997.

Meanwhile, one of my favorite U.S. senators, **Bob Graham** (D-Florida), recently underwent a successful heart operation at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and is expected to take a month before likely jumping into the 2004 presidential race.

Even the *Los Angeles Times* featured the recent dustup between Mayor **Willie Brown** and Supervisor **Aaron Peskin** (complete with photos of both) that took place in front of City Hall as the two had heated words. Peskin told cops that the enraged mayor, at 5 feet 8, loomed so close that the brim of Brown's trademark Borsalino almost touched the 5 foot 5 supe's forehead. "I am not afraid of Willie Brown as a politician, but he's a powerful man with lots of connections and he does have a share of his friends who are thugs," the supervisor told the *Times*. ("Thugs," you say Aaron?) Peskin says he still has not received an apology from the mayor, and **P.J. Johnston**, Brown's press secretary, made it clear that it wouldn't be a good idea for Peskin to hold his breath waiting for one. Damn, you gotta love this town.

Elton John, one of the most flamboyant dressers anywhere, insists that the indispensable accessory in today's wardrobe is the condom. "Life is in fashion these days," he says in an upcoming public-service announcement. "Protect yourself." The singer's Elton John AIDS Foundation is teaming up with the MAC AIDS Fund for a safe-sex campaign targeting youth. John, R&B diva **Mary J. Blige**, and **Shirley Manson** of the rock band Garbage have taped several 30-second spots that begin airing next week on MTV and VH1, with BET to follow. MAC Cosmetics President **John Demsey** said that John, Blige, and Manson "are the perfect spokespeople for this PSA because their creative expression appeals to all race, all sexes, all ages."

And finally, we have to mention that a New York City jury awarded more than \$11 million to a former hotel manager last week after concluding he was fired by real estate maven **Leona** "Queen of Mean" **Helmisley** because he's gay. The jury found that **Charles Bell** endured a "hostile and abusive work environment" while running **Helmisley's Park Lane Hotel**. Bell was awarded \$10 million in punitive damages and \$1.17 million in lost wages and other compensation, according to the *New York Times*.

And how was your week? ▼

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STOP AIDS PROJECT

'Queer' power of words

by Paula Martinac

For years, our community has been reclaiming antigay slurs like "queer," "fag," and "dyke." But because these words have a history as epithets, some of us continue to associate them with hate speech — regardless of who says them or in what context. This suggests to me that the proud reclaiming of derogatory words is really just a start and that much more work is needed before they will lose their power over us.

"Why do you insist on using 'queer'?" some readers of my column have complained when I've written it as convenient shorthand for the LGBT community. In a similar vein, gay writer Hal Campbell published an op-ed column last year in *We the People*, a California gay paper, in which he remembered being called "queer" for the first time in 1965 during a police raid on a gay bar. Hearing the word used today "like a merit badge" by a new gay generation, Campbell wrote, makes him "cringe and become saddened to the core." In fact, he noted, his preference would be to "abolish [it] from public usage."

Likewise, the slang use of "nigger" by African Americans remains controversial and hasn't taken the sting out of that word's long legacy of hate. Author Ran-



Christine Smith

dall Kennedy, a Harvard law professor, faced heavy criticism from fellow African Americans when he titled his 2002 book *Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word*. Kennedy's critics said it would be better to eradicate that word from the English language than to study it.

Despite the old "sticks and stones" adage, language really does hurt, and not just emotionally;

after all, verbal assaults often lead to physical attacks. Over the years, I've been verbally harassed so many times with "dyke" — and frightened of the potential violence of the men and boys who have said it — that I'm still wary of the word, no matter how many lesbian groups incorporate it into their names.

But in the same way that simply reclaiming words doesn't drain their venom, getting rid of them completely or just not using them doesn't erase the bigotry behind them. That's because we're not really talking about words per se, but stigma — and how do you erase that?

Sometimes we can take the sting out of slurs, but it requires quick thinking. Here's a favorite example: A friend of mine once defused what could have become a violent situation — a guy taunting her with the word "dyke" — by calling out "Don't you sweet-talk me!" In *Nigger*, Kennedy tells the story of an African American doctor who made a joke out of a white patient objecting to having a "nigger doctor" touch him; amazingly, the white guy later apologized for his offensive behavior.

Another tack might be to stop guarding our claim to these epithets and let supportive heterosexuals use words like "queer" in casual, non-threatening ways — much in the way that blacks sometimes tolerate their white friends' informal, affectionate use of "nigger." Having a television show called *Queer as Folk* that is watched

and loved by straight viewers may actually dilute the negative power of that word over time. We should realize, too, that occasionally words like "queer" are used innocently and not as "fighting words." Recently, I was caught off guard when my sister described something as "queer." At first I felt my anger welling up, but I quickly realized she was using its dictionary definition of "odd" or "unusual."

Casual usage of these words, however, isn't really enough to end stigma; politics has a big role to play. Without changes in laws and in the courts that uphold them, you get a conundrum like this one: In Texas, if you're a straight man and someone calls you "queer," you can go to court and sue your assailant for slander (Texas still has a sodomy law in place, so being gay implies criminal behavior). But if you're a gay man and someone calls you "queer," you don't have any legal recourse; your harasser is merely stating the truth, and the Bill of Rights protects his speech.

Some courts, even in conservative states, have begun to question the stigma of "queer." A few years ago, an appeals court in North Carolina, for example, ruled in a gay slander suit that "the bare allegation" of homosexuality should not automatically hold people up to "disgrace, ridicule, or contempt." If the U.S. Supreme Court throws out Texas' sodomy law, thus decriminalizing gay sexual behavior nationwide, antigay stigma could be further chipped away.

In addition, we need straight allies who reject the supposed disgrace of homosexuality — which lawsuits like Tom Cruise's very public \$10 million one serve to reinforce. At a gay fundraising dinner last year, straight columnist and novelist Anna Quindlen spoke about the angry mail she receives when she publishes pro-gay-rights commentaries. Quindlen has a powerful message for these readers: "What you need to understand," she tells them, "is that when you call me a dyke, I don't consider it an insult." ▼

Lesbian Notions

Araujo suspect free on bail

by Joe Dignan

A Fremont judge released Michael Magidson, one of the suspects in the Gwen Araujo murder, on \$1.6 million bail on Monday, February 10.

Magidson was released to the custody of the New Bridge Foundation, a Berkeley-based drug and alcohol rehabilitation program.

Prosecutor Connie Campbell said that Magidson was the main aggressor in Araujo's killing and that he had a sexual relationship

with the 17-year-old transgender teenager. Araujo was biologically male but lived as a woman.

Araujo was killed on October 4, 2002. Campbell said that on that night, Magidson and three others decided to find out Araujo's gender, and when they discovered she was biologically male, they beat her, strangled her to death, and drove her body to a remote campground in the Sierra where they hastily buried it in a rocky grave.

The preliminary hearing in the case is under way and is scheduled to resume on February 18. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Hide and seek

by Jane Warner

4 500 block of 19th Street, February 7, 1:28 p.m.: After a chase through several residential back yards, police arrested a man wanted in connection with a series of recent burglaries in the Eureka Valley neighborhood.

The first 911 call came in at about 1:28 p.m. after a resident living in the 4500 block of 19th Street heard a man kick in his front door and enter his home. The resident confronted the intruder, who ran out of the house in an unknown direction. Responding



officers searched the area and spotted the suspect, who was carrying a Tower Market shopping bag and running on Caselli near Clover Street. Officers chased the suspect through several back yards and over fences. A couple living on the 4600 block of 18th Street heard police sirens, looked out their window, and were startled when a strange man burst through their front door and ran through the house to the back yard. Realizing there was no access from the back yard, the intruder ran back through their house and out the front door again. Several other neighbors heard the police

sirens and called 911 to report that the suspect had just entered their back yards as well. One resident shouted to officers running nearby, "He's hiding in my flower bed." Officers commanded the suspect to stop, but the burglar jumped the fence and ran to an adjacent back lot. Police finally caught up and surrounded the suspect as he ran eastbound on 18th Street near Hattie. Several officers tackled him to the ground and he was taken into custody without further incident.

A search of his clothing revealed three women's watches, several pairs of earrings, eight necklaces, three bracelets, gold coins, a pocket watch, a cell phone, and several hypodermic needles. Inside his shopping bag were two CD players, a lap top computer, a Sony organizer, two diamond rings, and a 1994 University of Michigan class ring. The stolen property was determined to have come from four different residences.

The suspect is thought to be responsible for several residential burglaries in the Eureka Valley neighborhood over the past two months, according to police Sergeant Chuck Limbert of Mission Station.

"We're still trying to determine how many break-ins he is responsible for," said Limbert. "We won't know for sure until all the evidence is analyzed but my guess is we can attribute most of the recent burglaries in the neighborhood

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Club closing

◀ page 1

"It was an uncomfortable position for me to be in, for me to be the Saturday night club in town," said Bean. "It's too much criticism and not enough reward. It certainly is hard to please everybody."

Bean attributed the demise of his party to a number of factors, but mainly he said it was no longer financially feasible for him to continue with the weekly event. Since he did not own the building at 525 Harrison, the club's liquor license was not under his name and he made no money from bar sales.

Instead, he relied on a \$20 entry fee to cover the cost of throwing the party. Because many patrons of the club used passes for free entry, Bean said revenue collected at the door barely covered his expenses.

"I was paying high rent on a facility where I saw none of the bar revenue," explained Bean. "With a weekly thing, we had to deal with the economics of putting something together and being able to appeal to the demographic that wants to pay little or nothing to get into the door and still provide a quality show."

Bean's desire to bring in a revolving list of talented DJs from across the country also worked partly against the club's success. Many clubgoers used to hearing the music of a resident DJ at Club Universe never adjusted to Palladium's weekly change in sound from the DJ booth.

"Quite frankly, I thought it was an amazing caliber of talent we brought in. Perhaps that is best saved for monthly and occasional events," said Bean. "It went largely unappreciated."

Juan Garcia, an assistant to Bean who helps book talent for the various Gus Presents parties, said reaction to Palladium was mixed between those who loved it and those who hated it. Overall, he

said the club was a success.

"It was busy every week. Lots of tourists would come and when they went back home, they e-mailed us and said they had a fantastic experience," said Garcia. "We also would get e-mails from people who would say they don't like certain DJs. It's hard to really say what is successful and isn't when it comes to a Saturday night in the gayest city in the country."

After the lights came up one last Sunday morning at Palladium, Bean said he intends to return to what he does best – plan monthly parties. He is still hosting his Mass parties here and in Los Angeles, and is expanding the monthly events to Seattle and San Diego this year. And events in more cities are on the way.

"Boys on both sides of the Mississippi River can look forward to Mass parties coming into their town," said Bean, who would not disclose which cities he was looking at. "Even if we do only one or two Mass parties in multiple cities, people just love it."

He is also relaunching his Metropolis parties on occasional Saturday nights at the club he owns on Barneveld and will continue to host his Sanctuary and Colossus parties. Bean is already cementing plans for the annual Gay and Lesbian Night at Great America, which will take place this year Friday, May 23.

In addition, he is producing Sundance 2003, a yearly party he hosts in the Russian River area. And his property there, the Retreat Resort and Spa, which has been on the market for five months, is now in escrow. Bean said selling the resort and ending Palladium will allow him to focus more on the special events as well as expand his monthly parties into new markets.

"I think all in all, I am really excited to be moving back into just more special event parties," said Bean. "I have so much to be thankful for. I am glad we did. It was a wonderful experience." ▼

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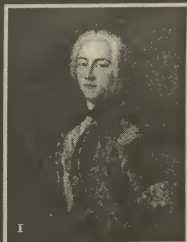
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Bears 'Rendezvous' in SF this weekend

by Cynthia Laird

If it's February, it must be time for the International Bears Rendezvous, and the event showcasing big, brawny bears and their friends is indeed coming to San Francisco this weekend, February 14-17.

Officials with Bears of San Francisco, host of the gathering, noted that more than 600 bears from the Bay Area and abroad have registered; ultimately almost 1,000 bears and admirers will converge for a weekend of fun, fur, and friendship. The culmination of the weekend is the "International Bear Competition" that takes place Sunday, February 16, starting at 7:30 p.m. Winners will be selected in four categories: International Mr. Bear 2003, International Daddy Bear, International Grizzly Bear, and International Bear Cub.

Mark Katzenberger, BOSF president, noted that the event, now in its ninth year, is the pre-eminent bear run in the country. It's also a fundraiser that to date has raised more than \$150,000 for various local charities.

"We're very excited about this year," Katzenberger told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "For the first time we're joining with other people to provide more options." Two dances, including "Sweat" at the Palladium on Saturday and "Planet Big" at the Stud bar on Sunday, are scheduled, he said.

Most of the major events, including Sunday's contest, will take place at the Ramada Hotel on Market Street at Eighth Street. This year's contest will be emceed by "Lurch" and stars the Whoa Nellys, an ultra-mod quintet specializing in pop songs from the 1960s and 1970s. Blake, a local bear comedian, is also scheduled to perform. A limited number of tickets for the contest are available for \$25 each at Mr. S Leather in the South of Market District, Rock Hard in the Castro, and at the hotel starting Friday. A buffet dinner preceding



Lynn Ludwig

These bears enjoyed themselves at last year's International Bear Rendezvous.

the contest is sold out.

Katzenberger said that this year, 22 contestants are vying for the top honors at Sunday's contest.

People who have not registered for the rendezvous can sign up at the hotel for other activities, such as tours, taking place throughout the weekend. Fees vary by event.

Several South of Market bars will be busy this weekend, as bears check out the local scene. On Friday, February 14, the Eagle Tavern plays host to the "Fat Bottom Girls," who will play an all-Queen tribute before contestants are introduced at around 9 p.m. A beer benefit will take place at the Eagle on Saturday afternoon.

The Lone Star Saloon is an unofficial hangout. The bar will join with BOSF to host a welcome party tonight (Thursday, February

13) at 9 p.m. and the farewell party on Monday afternoon, February 17, at 2 p.m.

This year's beneficiaries for the International Bear Rendezvous are the Aurora Dawn Foundation, which targets queer youth; the National Center for Lesbian Rights; and the LGBT Community Center of San Francisco.

"We felt it was important to select a diverse group of beneficiaries," said Paul Almy, BOSF vice president and chair of the Beneficiaries Committee.

BOSF is a nonprofit charitable organization. Centered in San Francisco, the group has about 200 members from more than a dozen states and countries. For more information on the organization or this weekend's festivities, visit www.bosf.org. ▼

Treat your Valentine to LGBT 'kiss-in' Friday

by Joe Dignan

Pucker up. Close your eyes. It's a kiss-in.

More fun than a sit-in, or a be-in, on Valentine's Day evening, San Francisco's LGBT family organization, Our Family Coalition, is hosting a "kiss-in" as part of its "Valentine's Night Out" for queer families.

The point of the event, according to Charlie Spiegel, the coalition's former executive director, is to promote domestic partner registration and give encouragement and support to LGBT families.

So, if the kiss works out, you can register for domestic partnership right there on the spot — Spiegel will be serving as a volunteer notary. Last Valentine's Day, the coalition registered 50 couples — at least some of whom had presumably met before.

OFC will also have a big wed-

ding cake to cut, DJ dancing afterwards, and prizes, including a raffle for a free trip — organized by Olivia Cruises — for you and your LGBT family to a Club Med resort near Orlando's Disney World in Kissimmee, Florida.

According to Spiegel, the trip is the first family vacation package produced by the lesbian oriented travel group.

Carole Migden will be there. She's now the chairwoman of the state Board of Equalization, but during her career as an assemblywoman, she wrote the legislation that created California's domestic partnership registry. Spiegel said he wants to recognize her for her leadership role.

"If she kisses anybody, that will be a bonus," said Spiegel.

According to an aide, however, Migden's partner of 15 years; attorney Cris Arguedas, won't be at the event.

The entire affair is scheduled to

run from 6:30-10 p.m. on Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14 in the fourth floor Ceremonial Room of the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street at Octavia.

The event itself is priced on a \$6-\$18 sliding scale. If you want to get hitched, the \$25 cost includes the state registry fee, notary fee, a souvenir picture, a rose, and free admission to the kiss-in and the dance.

Migden said that she is proud to have introduced California's domestic partner's laws. But she cautioned that while LGBT families have made big strides, especially with Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg's (D-Los Angeles) introduction this legislative session of a bill to greatly expand domestic partnership rights in California, "We are far from reaching our goals of full inclusion. We must remain vigilant," she said.

The event is co-sponsored by OFC, the community center and *Spectrum* newspaper. ▼



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Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. Mild to moderate rash is another common side effect. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few reports of suicide but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam) or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking. Women should not become pregnant or breast-feed while taking SUSTIVA.

Please see important information about SUSTIVA on next page.



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Mayoral hopefuls gear up campaigns

by Joe Dignan

How this year's crop of mayoral candidates are kicking off their formal campaigns gives some insight into their bases of support and how they intend to try and position themselves with voters between now and the November election.

Of the 22 people who have declared their intention to raise money for this November's mayor's race, four are emerging as front-runners. In alphabetical order they are Angela Alioto, Tom Ammiano, Susan Leal, and Gavin Newsom.

Alioto's dad Joe, was mayor of this city from 1968-1976, and her

roots are in North Beach. She says that both her father and grandmother were born on that same block in North Beach that contains the venerable San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. The club dates its history back to 1917, and that's where Alioto's going on Tuesday, February 18 at 5:30 p.m. for her campaign kick-off event.

Alioto sat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors from 1989 through 1997, and served as president. She said she is most proud of her accomplishments in health care, medical marijuana, and getting smoking banned in San Francisco restaurants.

For information about Alioto's campaign, call (415) 434-2100 or

go to www.angela4mayor.com.

Ammiano, the openly gay San Francisco supervisor and long a supporter of organized labor in this city, is having his event at the Plumber's Union Hall, 1621 Market Street at Franklin, on Wednesday, February 19, from 5:30-8 p.m.

Ammiano's event may be at the union hall, but that doesn't mean the union is supporting him.

"We're not supporting Tom, we're just letting him use the hall for his kick-off," said the plumber's union's Larry Mazzola Jr.

Ammiano said, "It's all fluid. I've been a good friend to the trades."

It was Ammiano who negotiated the deals with labor that allowed the city to balance last year's budget.

Ammiano's career on the board, including two stints as president, has included sponsoring San Francisco's landmark equal benefits ordinance, creating the current structure of district supervisorial elections, and curbing construction of live-work developments.

For information about Ammiano's campaign, call (415) 552-0345 or go to www.ammianoformayor.com.

Leal, a Latina lesbian, is planning what she called a "grass roots" campaign. She's planning a series of small events at her precinct headquarters all over the city on March 8 and 9.

"You get people who will walk a precinct for you, not someone who's there to get a free lunch," Leal said.

She announced her candidacy on January 7 on the steps of City Hall and is planning a major gay community fundraiser on Wednesday, February 26, from 6-8 p.m. at the home of Jeff Anderson and Jeff Soukup.

Leal, who calls herself a "progressive centrist," is San Francisco's treasurer. Last year, she was re-elected with 87 percent of the vote.

For information on her campaign, go to www.susanlealformayor.com.

Newsom is having the big blow out event. He has booked San Francisco's football-field sized Bill Graham Civic Auditorium for his kick-off on Saturday, March 8, at 11 a.m. On the reason for his choice of the 7,000-seat venue, his campaign consultant Eric Jay said, "We've had a series of events in other smaller places, but even at this early stage, we've outgrown all the facilities."

Newsom has the mayor's endorsement, and is far in the lead in fundraising with more than \$570,000 raised in only six weeks for a race with a voluntary spending cap of \$724,000, according to his campaign.

For information on Newsom's campaign, call (415) 642-2340.

No sitting member of the Board

of Supervisors has been elected mayor since George Christopher took office in 1956. Part of the reason, Leal supporter Tony Winnicker speculated, is that it's relatively easy to attack an incumbent supe. This week, for example, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported on Newsom failing to disclose some \$11 million in various loans.

Instant runoff

Newsom also faces a challenge from a recent revision to the city charter. Last March, voters passed a charter amendment that would require "instant runoff" voting for city races, or, as acting elections chief John Arntz prefers to call it, "ranked choice voting."

With the new system voters would rank their choices for an office: 1-2-3. If no candidate got more than 50 percent of the vote in the first counting, the candidate with the least number of votes would be eliminated and the second choice candidates on their ballots would be counted, and so on until someone got over 50 percent.

The system makes it possible for a candidate like Leal or Alioto, who might not have a majority in the first count, to end up as mayor by being everybody's second choice.

But, Arntz said, despite the mandate of the voters to have instant runoff voting, and despite what he called his "absolute commitment" to get the system up and running, "There's no software system to do it on," he said.

No other city in the U.S. has an identical provision, and, he said, "there's no money stipulated in the charter amendment."

So Arntz will have to go to the Board of Supervisors for the money to implement the system. Then he'll have to get someone to develop it. Then get the secretary of state to approve it. Then get it implemented. All by November. ▼

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ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA." Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. **Changes in body fat.** Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA. Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

ONLY

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- **Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant. Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- **Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase these side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis. Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.
- Bring all your prescription and non-prescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.
- Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort (*hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versee® (mizolam)
- Halcion® (tizolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)
- The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:
- • Oravert® (indinavir)
- • Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- • Methadone

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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T4-8001B-11-02

6495-07
Revised April 2002

COMMUNITY NEWS

AIDS agency

◀ page 1

ditors examined whether the agency had obtained approval from the local review panel for all educational material used in federally-supported prevention programs, as required by the CDC.

Auditors from the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services performed their fieldwork between March and August 2002. They did not attend any of the workshops or events sponsored by Stop AIDS, but instead relied on documentation prepared and maintained by the local review panel overseen by the city's Department of Public Health.

Although the auditors found that Stop AIDS failed to receive approval from the review panel for one series of four workshops, they concluded that the agency "had substantially complied with CDC's guidance in terms of submitting its AIDS-related educational material" to the city's health department for review and approval.

The review also looked at whether the agency had established an adequate reporting system to support salaries and wages being charged to the federal government for reimbursement. As of July 2002, the agency implemented a tracking system to comply with the auditor's requests.

"The investigation found we were doing our job well and we are in full compliance with federal and local laws," said Weide.

What the report also clearly demonstrates, maintains Weide, is how conservative congressional members are intent on attacking agencies that do not adhere to the Bush administration's abstinence-only and faith-based initiatives.

"The investigation was about a small group of conservative congressmen with an abstinence-only, antigay agenda trying to defund effective HIV prevention for gay men by questioning whether our workshops encourage sexual activity," said Weide. "Conservative congressmen in D.C. clearly think if they can tear down a well-established San Francisco gay HIV organization it will terrify AIDS organizations across the country from talking about sex in fear of losing their funding."

The audit of the agency stemmed from a report, issued in October 2001 by Inspector General

Janet Rehnquist, which raised concerns that Stop AIDS was not in full compliance with CDC guidelines. In her report, Rehnquist stated some of Stop AIDS' materials appear "to directly promote sexual activity, which is not consistent with CDC's basic principles" and that "one might view the materials as 'encourag[ing], directly, ... sexual activity' and as 'obscene.'"

Stop AIDS refuted those findings at the time, arguing federal rules allow local communities to determine what is appropriate. This week, Weide said charges about obscene materials are meant to pressure agencies into self-censoring themselves.

"This is about them using scare tactics to keep us from talking openly about sex when we talk about HIV," she said. "What someone finds shocking in Indiana or Florida can be perfectly appropriate for men in San Francisco. That is how the federal law works. That is why we have a local review board. That is why it is outrageous that these few men in D.C. think that it is their right to determine what is appropriate for us here in San Francisco."

Prompted by congressman

Rehnquist's review of the materials had been prompted by a letter from Congressman Mark E. Souder, who raised questions about several Stop AIDS workshops held in August 2001. Souder, a Republican from Indiana, chairs the Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources.

In response to the latest report, Souder's subcommittee issued a statement saying the audit does not cover all of its questions concerning Stop AIDS' programs. In its statement the committee makes note that the investigators did not render an opinion on the efficacy of Stop AIDS' programs and did not audit costs for "allowability, allocability, or reasonableness" either.

The subcommittee contends it "welcomes SAP's efforts to comply with federal regulations, but our primary concern remains the lack of efficacy and effectiveness of the Stop AIDS Project's programs. As of yet no data has been presented to the IG or the CDC by the Stop AIDS Project to demonstrate that the Stop AIDS Project's federally funded programs have been effective in reducing risk be-

haviors or HIV and STD infection rates."

Weide countered that numerous studies have proven HIV prevention efforts to be effective. A recent Emory University study found that U.S. prevention programs may have kept as many as 1.5 million Americans HIV-negative.

"We know prevention works and that spending money on prevention saves money and resources later on," said Weide.

Despite the favorable findings in the latest report, Weide said the agency is well aware it will likely continue to be attacked for the work that it does.

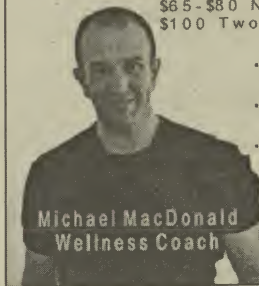
"While we don't seek controversy, we recognize that at this time, when abstinence advocates have the support of the Bush administration, it is groups like ours who do comprehensive sex education that are likely to be subject to further scrutiny," she said. "As long as the Bush administration continues to denigrate sound public health in favor of abstinence-only politics, we are prepared."

The agency did receive praise from an unlikely source this week. Roland Foster, a Republican congressional staffer who has been critical of Stop AIDS in the past, complimented the agency on its recent HIV prevention campaign.

"I have generally found the 'HIV Is No Picnic' campaign to be very well done. We are very interested in examining the impact of the campaign and whether or not it is effective," Foster told the B.A.R. in an e-mail. "It certainly represents a departure from the questionable Stop AIDS Project programs held in the past - like zoo trips and flirting classes - that largely wasted federal funds without any proof of effectiveness." ▼

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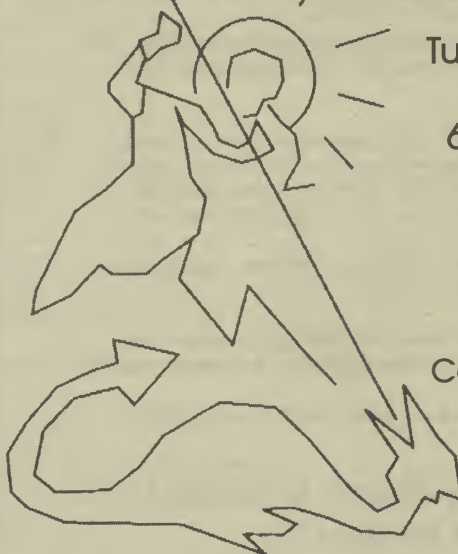
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Gay Shame

◀ page 1

Coan, 22, and Zebadyha Lee, 30, although the two could still face misdemeanor charges. Protesters Matthew Goldstein and Matthew Luton, who had faced charges for battery and resisting arrest, will not face any charges, said Hallinan's office.

While Newsom's camp — which insisted on entering through the front door of the building — claim that protesters "rushed" and "intimidated" the supervisor and his wife, Kimberly Guilfoyle-Newsom, Gay Shame members called the police response "queer bashing," and have denounced what they say amounted to police beating LGBT community members while community center staff stood by and watched.

At Monday's press conference, Gay Shame members called for all charges to be dropped against the demonstrators, and challenged the LGBT center to clarify its position on demonstrations that are held at the building. Demonstrators also wanted to know who called the police, and whether Newsom was given special protection due to his political connections, including the fact that his wife is an assistant district attorney, although she is currently on leave from her position to help with her husband's campaign.

According to Brian Cheu, executive director of the LGBT Community Center, the center called the police to inform them that there was going to be a demonstration.

"We only have one safety guard on duty, and because we didn't know the size of the crowd, or



Public Defender Jeff Adachi, flanked by Mary Treadwell, left, and Mary Calendar, right, of Gay Shame, at Monday's press conference.

what to expect, I believe we decided to inform the police," Cheu told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Eric Jaye, a spokesman for Newsom's mayoral campaign, told the B.A.R. that Newsom and his guests received a call from police informing them that officers would be at the center in anticipation of the protest.

Cheu said that the center welcomes peaceful demonstrations that "do not intimidate or harm any of the visitors, damage the building, or attempt to disrupt an event." Cheu also acknowledged, however, that the mere presence of protesters could be intimidating to some visitors.

Cheu also disputed the claim that center staff "stood by and watched" the scuffle, pointing out that at least one staff member was injured. The center does not condone police brutality, said Cheu, but according to the center's statement, police were provoked by protesters who tried to enter the building.

"While most protesters were peaceful, some visitors entering through the back door were hit or pushed by protesters and some students and community members have reported that they were too intimidated to enter the building to attend the multiple groups, forums, classes, and workshops happening in the building that evening," said the center's statement. "When Gavin Newsom entered the building many of the protesters attempted to follow him inside. At this point, the police formed a line outside of the building not allowing the protesters to enter."

As the situation escalated, said the center statement, "several protesters advanced onto the building and attempted to pry open the doors and cross the police line. At this point the police, under their own authority, advanced into the crowd with batons out, striking protesters."

Gay Shame members said that most protesters did not even expect to see Newsom, nor did they notice his arrival as he was escorted into the building by a group of police officers.

When protesters attempted to enter "what is supposed to be their center," to discuss their concerns, said a statement from Gay Shame, police became violent.

"Ironically, Newsom and his spokespeople are trying to spin the events as a physical attack on him

and his wife, despite the fact that the SFPD was solely responsible for the escalation of the situation," said the Gay Shame statement.

"Protests do make people uncomfortable, but in this situation I think you have to look at who has the power," said a Gay Shame member who identified himself as Mary Treadwell. "There was only one group with night clubs swinging to smash and hit and do the things that they did. And in that context, while I certainly don't want people to be intimidated ... Newsom knew perfectly well that our event was taking place and he made the decision he would come through the front door ... and I think he made that decision for very specific reasons."

The center, said Cheu, agreed to a Gay Shame request to inform the district attorney's office that it did not wish to press charges.

Before the announcement that the two protesters would not face felony charges, Jaye said that the pending felonies were "with the D.A. ... and we should let that process take its course."

Jaye also said the real issue is why a group of LGBT people would protest a person who was there to raise money for their community.

"It's worth pointing out that the supervisor was invited to attend the fundraiser by the center for the community," said Jaye. "It was not a political event, and not a controversial event. It was a fundraiser for the center and why the protesters take issue with that is still a question."

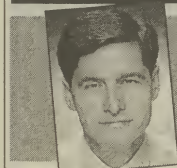
But Gay Shame members believe that painting LGBT people as one population ignores the race, class, and gender differences that continue to alienate some queers from the center, despite what many have called Cheu's successful outreach efforts when he took over what was perceived by some to be an institution created by an elitist process.

Both the center and Newsom have gone on record that the conflict has not soured relations with political protesters or the broader LGBT community.

"The supervisor supports the mission of the center," said Jaye. "If invited, he would return to raise funds."

The event on February 6, said Cheu, brought in about \$20,000 for center programs and services. ▼

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OBITUARIES

Fund at Yale to honor Sarah Pettit

by Cynthia Laird

Longtime AIDS activist and playwright Larry Kramer has announced that the provost of Yale University has given permission to the Larry Kramer Initiative for Lesbian and Gay Studies at Yale for the establishment of a fellowship to honor Sarah Pettit.

Ms. Pettit, a co-founder of *Out* magazine in 1992 and later a senior arts and entertainment editor at *Newsweek* magazine, died January 22 in a New York hospital of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. She was 36.

Jonathan Katz, director of the Larry Kramer Initiative at Yale, confirmed the establishment of the fund last week. Kramer got the fellowship started with a \$25,000 donation, Katz said, adding that the fellowship has the full support of Ms. Pettit's family.

According to an e-mail from Kramer, the fellowship will be a national competitive grant to enable a leading lesbian studies scholar to come to Yale for a year in concert with the Kramer initiative. The scholar will have full access to all the academic riches of the institution, including Yale's libraries and lesbian and gay special collections. It is expected that the



Sarah Pettit

recipient of the fellowship will strive to disseminate his/her research widely in the form of a book, exhibition, or other influential public format.

"Sarah was much admired and much loved by many people for many years," Kramer said in his e-mail. "I found myself wanting very much to create something in Sarah's memory that would both please and honor her."

"She lived with us, albeit all too briefly, during these past horrendous years of the decimation of our gay population. She shared with us her energy and her ideas

and her convictions, and all of these helped all of us to get from day to day and from there to here with a little more fiber and spine and backbone," Kramer added.

Ms. Pettit attended Yale, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in 1988. She moved to New York in 1989 and became an editor of *OutWeek*. In 1992 she joined Michael Goff in creating *Out*. According to her obituary in the *New York Times*, she became editor in 1997 but was dismissed at the end of the year on the basis that the magazine wanted to change focus. She sued, alleging sex discrimination and breach of contract. The case was settled out of court.

Kramer said that for the fellowship to be self-perpetuating, a total of \$200,000 must be raised. To make a donation, checks made out to Yale University re: Sarah Pettit Fund can be mailed to Yale Development Office, P.O. Box 2038, New Haven, Connecticut, 06521-2038. People can also access Yale's online giving Web site at www.yale.edu/development/how/online.

Ms. Pettit was born August 6, 1966 in Amsterdam. She is survived by her father, Frederick Pettit; her mother, Jane Pettit; and two brothers, Benjamin Pettit and Baer Pettit. ▼

Under One Roof's 'First Ladies Day' sale

by Cynthia Laird

Under One Roof will host its largest sale of the year this weekend, when the store takes over the former Valley Pride Market in the Castro for its annual "First Ladies Day" sale.

The sale will feature 41 pallets of non-perishable goods donated by the Fancy Food Show that took place in San Francisco, as well as thousands of unique items from the San Francisco Gift Center, Design Center, the Northern Califor-

nia Booksellers Association, and various wholesalers and retailers throughout the Bay Area.

"It's our single biggest event of the year and we're really hoping for a big success - we and our agencies need it," said Paul Olsen, CEO of the store.

All proceeds from the weekend sale will benefit Under One Roof in its efforts to raise unrestricted funds for nearly 50 AIDS service organizations in the Bay Area. To date, the store has delivered more than \$8.8 million in retail sales benefiting the HIV/AIDS community.

Olsen noted that the use of the 5,000 square foot former market is just one more example of the community support that makes up Under One Roof. People from all walks of life log more than 10,000 volunteer hours each year, pitching in together to help fund needed services through money raised in retail sales.

The sale takes place from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 474 Castro Street, from Friday, February 14 through Monday, February 17.

Under One Roof's retail store is located at 549 Castro Street. ▼

New Leaf hosts FTM panel next Thursday

by Zak Szymanski

What kind of health and well-being issues do trans-genders along the FTM spectrum face, and where can they go for support? A community forum sponsored by New Leaf: Services for Our Community will address these questions and more next

Thursday, February 20, at 7:30 p.m.

The forum - held at Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco at 150 Eureka Street - will feature panelists Marcus Rene Van, Yosenio Lewis, and Prado Gomez, and will include brief introductions and an open discussion. As is the case with many New Leaf forums, the audience and questions will dictate the content

of the discussion, but expected topics include self-esteem, substance abuse and recovery, issues particular to female-born males, and trans-inclusive community resources.

Everyone who's interested is welcome to attend next week's forum, which is free and includes refreshments. For more information, call (415) 626-7000. ▼

Nominations sought for API awards

by Zak Szymanski

Tuesday, February 18 is the deadline to nominate leaders and activists for the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center's annual awards, which recognize individuals and organizations who have contributed significantly to the health and well-being of the API communities.

Three awards will be given at a celebration and fundraiser on May 6 at the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, including the Grassroots Award,

given to an unsung hero that has worked locally on behalf of Asian and Pacific Islanders; the Ally Award, presented to any individual or organization that has demonstrated compassion and commitment in serving API communities; and the National Award, which honors a person or group whose contribution has brought national visibility to HIV/AIDS issues in API communities.

Past recipients include Connie Amarthithada, Edward Cheng Ming Tang, and the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance for the Grassroots

Award; the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) for the Ally Award; and life partners Helen Zia and Lia Shigemura, the founders of the Asian Women's Shelter, for the National Award.

Nominees should be actively working in areas that fulfill the API Wellness Center's mission of educating, supporting, and empowering the API communities. Nomination forms are available at www.apowellness.org, and more information is available by calling (415) 292-3420, ext. 370. ▼

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Bowl glory

by Jim Provenzano

Bowling has long been one of the most popular sports in the GLBT community, both locally and at Gay Games events around the world.

Most of the 88 Bay Area bowlers who traveled to Sydney for the sixth quadrennial Games will also be competing in Daly City at the 19th annual Golden Gate Classic, taking place this weekend, February 14-16.

Several directors of the Golden Gate Classic bowling tournament also competed in Sydney.

Chuck Vrana noted that every entrant in bowling competes in

singles, doubles, and a team event.

"We have an optional scratch masters event, which has five different divisions, based on averages. The regular event is handicapped. You qualify for finals based on non-handicapped scores."

One of the founders of the Amsterdam league, which focused on developing players' skills for the Games, Vrana also organized the Sydney teams, which is now renamed Montreal 2006.

"It promotes interest in attending the Games, as well as a savings plan so bowlers can put money away to pay for the trip."

Vrana's been bowling since he was 10 years old in Omaha, Nebraska, where he bowled in junior leagues. "I did my first bowling in San Francisco in adult leagues, and continue to bowl in the gay leagues here."

He likes "the fun, the sociability of it, and the competitiveness of it; also the fact that it's one of the sports where people of different abilities can compete against one another."

"Someone who is a 200 average bowls with people in the 140 average. Because we handicap differences it makes it possible for everybody to win."

Lane brain

Since the 1999 shuttering of the popular Japantown Bowl, hundreds of people from all communities were forced to find other outlets after the Japanese owners of the building closed it, and

planned to convert the building to accommodate Internet servers in anticipation of the now-collapsed Internet boom.

That plan, despite being protested by leaders in the gay, senior and youth communities, went through, after then-San Francisco Supervisor Michael Yaki and others, while offering lip service at public forums, did little to prevent the closure.

"There was some difficulty after Japantown," said Vrana of the loss.

"We always took the entire upper floor. It strengthened the sense of community. But we've found other places to bowl."

With 76 teams currently competing in the gay league, despite moving to outlying lanes at the Presidio, Daly City, and Pacifica, Vrana has noticed, "a big increase" in players.

Don George not only competed in Sydney, but also trekked a bit north to New Zealand for the International Gay Bowling Organization tournament.

"Team SF won at least 14 medals. George placed fourth in singles, fifth in doubles, and sixth in team. Team SF bowlers won the majority of the medals in Sydney. We have a very dedicated group of bowlers who are very serious about our sport and our competition," he said.

Oklahoma!

Leslie Quintana is one of the organizers of this weekend's big bowling tournament.

He expects more than 300 bowlers will compete, arriving from Southern California, Oregon, Michigan, New York, Washington, and even Canada.

"This is the Western region's biggest event," he said. They're well prepared, despite the dearth of city facilities.

"The only bowling centers in San Francisco are at the Presidio and Moscone Center, which has



Oar else: The Bay Blades are strokin' in Oakland.

only 10 lanes. For 300 bowlers, it's obviously not big enough," said Quintana.

Quintana's been bowling since he was 18, but didn't join a gay league until 1993. He had so much fun, he went to that year's IGBO tournament in Oklahoma.

Different cities host each annual event. The next IGBO tournament will be in Phoenix, Arizona, May 24-27.

But this week's focus is the Daly City tournament, with 35 hotel rooms booked for visitors.

Quintana mentioned that there's a gay bowling event almost every night of the week.

"Mondays is the Tavern Guild, and the Montreal 2006 league. Wednesday community leagues see 20 teams play. Sunday is the rainbow league at the Presidio, and the women's league. We also have Thursday afternoon leagues, and Thursday night at Seabowl. It's a very competitive league." Quintana bowls on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

The history of the IGBO is rich and diverse, reflecting the organization's ideals of unity, fellowship, and communication. From its original six member cities in 1980, to over 200 member leagues and tournaments worldwide, IGBO has grown into the largest international gay and lesbian sports organization in existence today.

Gay and lesbian leagues emerged in the United States in the 1970s as a social outlet for

men and women who wished to meet in a non-bar atmosphere.

IGBO was created out of a desire to unify all gay leagues, and open lines of communications between them, as well as promote the sport through league and tournament participation.

Over the past 20 years, the organization has dealt with topical issues such as increasing participation by women, memorializing members who have succumbed to AIDS, raising funds for charitable organizations, and the ongoing pursuit of increasing membership worldwide.

Like to score

Although he "had a ball," in singles, doubles, and teams competition when he went all the way to semifinals, like many others, Doug Litwin didn't find out until very late in the week whether he'd made it to the semifinals.

With more than 800 bowlers from around the world eagerly seeking results, all competitors were referred to a phone line and a Web site that was not updated regularly.

Litwin put it bluntly. "It was a big mess."

The problems of crowded competitions that went on into the night were common at Gay Games V, but Litwin recalled that finding results wasn't a problem in Amsterdam.

In Sydney, he was able to find out some results through word of mouth, instead of through the "late and inaccurate information" given out by organizers.

A further cause of some controversy was the change in the format. Usually, Games bowling events are held in a "scratch" tournament style, but Sydney sports organizers chose to make it a handicap tournament. While not an unfamiliar format, it left some wondering why the decision was made.

Despite these problems, the events were well attended, and will no doubt continue to grow in popularity. Litwin's team (Litwin, Duane Flohra, Jim Hahn, and Nelson Luesse), the cleverly named "Strictly Ball Room," won a silver medal.

Flohra and Luesse also won a bronze medal in bowling doubles. Litwin and Hahn won a silver medal in bowling doubles. Flohra also won a medal in bowling singles.

For more information on this weekend's tournament, visit: www.sfggc.org and www.igbo.org.

Having a row

The Bay Blades' annual "Spring Orientation Day" will take place on Sunday, February 23 at Lake Merritt Rowing Club, 1520 Lakeside Drive, just north of 14th Street, in downtown Oakland at 11:30 a.m.

All new and returning rowers
next page ►

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay Games blame game rolls on

by Jim Provenzano

The board members of the now-bankrupt Sydney 2002 are blaming you for their multimillion dollar debt.

Yep, if you didn't buy a bucket of farewell party tickets, it's your fault that Games VI overspent by more than \$2 million Australian dollars.

That's what the *Sydney Star Observer* reports in a recent issue. "The gay and lesbian community did not support us," is the gist of their cover for massive overspending and inept budgeting.

The reasons were listed in a report from administrators RSM Bird Cameron Partners at a second meeting held in January to discuss recovering debts. The *Star Observer* also attended as a creditor. Among the many contractors owed money

are the opening party's music composer, and many vendors.

Administrator Peter Marsden wrote while he had no reason to "expressly disagree" with the reasons given by Sydney 2002 directors, he said it needs further investigations.

"The report to creditors also revealed that even if nearly \$800,000 (Aus) of assets - mostly debts and potential licensing income - were realized there would still be a \$1.6 million (Aus) dollar shortfall in money owed to creditors," said the *Star Observer*.

The Games' economic blame game will go on all year, it seems. Among the tawdriest of gossip: 62 individuals and companies may have received preferential payments valued at around \$2 million (Aus), just before the company went bankrupt.

The wildly varying earlier bud-

get estimates include \$855,000 (Aus) for "general board expenses." The amount was more than twice the provided amount spent on advertising the Games, and 8 percent of the total expenditure. What the board spent this money on has yet to be explained.

As to any apt follow-up to this financial scandal, outgoing director Bev Lange was quoted as saying, "It's not my responsibility."

This all comes out while Sydney is facing a greatly reduced Mardi Gras, whose board recently proposed eliminating the term "Gay" from its name.

For more on the financial mess, visit www.ssonet.com.au.

Those attempting to get complete Gay Games VI scores at www.sydney2002.org.au may not be able to get access. As of Monday, February 10, the site has been inaccessible. ▼

Antiwar protest

◀ page 2

woman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland). Joan Baez, the Coup, and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will be among the entertainers.

Organizers expect Sunday's protest to be larger than the estimated 150,000-strong January 18 march, which in turn was bigger than any local protests since the Vietnam era. The turnout will likely be more sizable than usual because four major coalitions - Bay Area United Against War, Act Now to Stop War and End Racism, Not In Our Name, and United for Peace and Justice - have thrown their support behind the event.

On Tuesday, 10 members of the Board of Supervisors - all but Tony Hall - issued a proclamation against the impending war. "The defense of civil liberties and democratic rights in the United States and the prioritization of funds for jobs, quality healthcare, and education must stand at the

top of our agenda - not war," the statement reads in part. The supervisors declared Sunday to be "A Day of Peace and Justice," and encouraged the people of San Francisco to say no to war.

"We know lots of people showed up on January 18," said Tim Kingston of Global Exchange, "but unfortunately showing opposition to the war cannot be a one-time effort. We have to show as much determination to prevent this war as those who are determined to carry it out."

Queer groups and individuals plan to be out in force on Sunday. Groups planning to join the LGBT contingent include the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Lesbian and Gay Insurgents, Out Against the War, Pride at Work, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The queer contingent will assemble at 11 a.m. at the corner of Drumm and Market streets.

A group of LGBT leaders has released a statement that will ap-

pear this week as an ad in the queer press. "The Bush administration's preemptive war drive against Iraq will greatly increase dangers of terrorism to this country," it reads. "It represents a terrible blow to international law and will result, not in a 'regime change,' but in a horrible slaughter of Iraqi civilians and U.S. troops."

"From any humanistic point of view, this war is a disaster," said Howard Wallace of Pride at Work.

"Soldiers - members of the working class - are going to die while, for the most part, the sons and daughters of those sending them will not. There's no contradiction between supporting the rights of GLs, including LGBT GLs, and opposing the war."

While activists hope to prevent the war, they have also planned a response should it start. Protesters will assemble at 5 p.m. at Market and Powell streets on the day the war begins. The next business day, people are encouraged to skip work or school and gather at Market and Main streets at 7 a.m. ▼

Crime

◀ page 11

hood to him."

A computer check revealed that the suspect, 32, had been arrested 25 times in the past 12 years; seven of those arrests were for burglaries. The suspect was booked for numerous charges including four counts of burglary, resisting arrest, possession of stolen property, and parole violation.

Crash and burn

H Cafe, 3801 17th Street, February 10, 6:25 a.m.: While opening for business, the waitress turned and saw a man standing behind her. The man asked her about flavored coffees and then ordered a

cup of hazelnut. The clerk gave the man his coffee as he dug into his pockets looking for money. The waitress turned and continued with her duties. When she turned to see if the man had gathered his change, he threw the cup of hot coffee in her face and grabbed the cash register drawer containing about \$300, then ran out the door southbound on Sanchez. Described as African American, 29 years old, 5 feet 8 inches, 150-160 pounds, wearing a blue jacket and blue jeans, the suspect was last seen running east-bound on 17th Street.

Stamen, pistol

Church Street Flowers, 212 Church Street, February 2, 5:15 p.m.: A man came into the flower shop and ordered one rose from

the clerk behind the counter. "Must be hard working alone," the man sympathized. "Yes it is," agreed the clerk, who then turned to open the cash register. "Oh, one more favor you can do for me," said the man. "Give me all your money." The clerk turned and saw the suspect was holding a semi-automatic handgun at her with both hands. Fearing for her life, the clerk stepped into the office directly behind her and locked the door. The suspect tried to open the cash register, but was unsuccessful and left without taking any money. The clerk called 911 and responding officers searched the neighborhood for the suspect, described as African American, 6 feet tall, wearing a black skull cap and leather coat, but they were unable to find him. ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

and coxswains are welcome. The orientation program will include an introduction to the club and the crew, a five-station hands-on demonstration, and end with an afternoon mixer at the nearby Bench and Bar.

"This is the perfect time for those who want to start learning a new sport, return to an old sport, or to compete in the next Gay Games in Montreal," said Hizam Haron, the Bay Blades' secretary

and outreach coordinator.

The San Francisco Bay Blades are a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and gay-friendly rowing club dedicated to the promotion and visibility of the sport of rowing in the gay community of the San Francisco Bay Area.

"We compete at various local and out-of-state regattas in spring and fall," said Haron. "Our racing calendar includes both gay-oriented and national competitions, including Oakland, Foster City, Sacramento, Petaluma, Vancouver, Austin, Washington, D.C., and Amsterdam."

With members in San Francisco, Berkeley, and Oakland, the Blades row in both casual and competitive programs each week, and organize occasional socials to hang with friends of the crew.

Info: www.sfbayblades.org or e-mail sfbayblades@mind-spring.com. ▼

Pitch your post-Games tale or GLBT sports event to jimproven@yahoo.com. Catch my latest online post-Games stories at www.sportscomplex.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0263673-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Game Services International. 601 O'Farrell Street Suite 705, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Fitz Randolph. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 02, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/14/2003.

JAN. 23, 30, FEB. 6, 13, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263719-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mass Communication. 650 5th Street, Suite 513, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael A. Stees. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/15/2003.

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STATEMENT FILE 0263419-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: On The Go Espresso- 100 Spear St. 100 Spear Street, Suite #190, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Thomas E. Hicks and Todd B. Crosby. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 06, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/06/2003.

JAN. 23, 30, FEB. 6, 13, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263970-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Regney & Associates. 144 Putnam Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Tracy Gable and Joni L. Regney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/24/2003.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263938-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Faye & Anne Accessories. 1028 Stockton Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Arlinda Tang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/24/2003.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263842-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Moving Finger Press. 369 Jersey Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114-3709. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steve Susoyev. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/21/2003.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263850-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: AltarBoy Productions. 4524 18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Joseph N. Graham and William D. Parker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 21, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/21/2003.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263868-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: IDK, LLC. 1019 Union Street #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Ben D. Gardner, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 10, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/22/2003.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263885-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: National Building Maintenance & Janitorial. 4320 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Larry Mak. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 22, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/22/2003.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0001-0251296-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Rogue Art Space. Located at: 4360 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Kevin Grady and Mark S. Rubnitz. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on August 29, 2001.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263998-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Real Techniques. 104 Maynard Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Francis Belmonte Dominguez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 27, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/27/2003.

FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0264103-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Excellent Affairs. 680 Mission Street Apt. 25(J), San Francisco, Ca. 94105-4037. This business is conducted by an individual signed Alex A. Cooper, Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 29, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/29/2003.

FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0264039-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: New Fashion Design. 888 Brannan Street #259, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hyang Suk Oh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 28, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/28/2003.

FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540573

In the Matter of the Application of Donna Cathy McCaskill For change of Name. The application of Donna Cathy McCaskill for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Donna Cathy McCaskill has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Donna Cathy Muir. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of March at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540585

In the Matter of the Application of Sandra Caus For change of Name. The application of Sandra Caus for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sandra Caus has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sandra Emily Novak. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 07th day of April at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Wednesdays Death Machine LLC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2800 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. Type of license Applied for:

4B-ON SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES

FEBRUARY 13, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0264424-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: LaDove Associates. 1865 Sacramento Street, Suite #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brett LaDove. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/10/2003.

FEB. 13, 20, 27, MAR. 6, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0264262-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chai House. 608 Geary Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Rajendra C. Patel, manager. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 1, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/10/2003.

FEB. 13, 20, 27, MAR. 6, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0264143-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Embassy CES. 1462 Pine Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Rebecca Patterson, treasurer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/31/2003.

FEB. 13, 20, 27, MAR. 6, 2003

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-6689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdappws. Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

Veterans Affairs Commission - File No. 030173

The Veterans Affairs Commission consists of a total of fifteen members, eleven of whom are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and four of whom are appointed by the Mayor as follows: Of the fifteen members, at least three must be women veterans and one a person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and is suffering under a physical disability arising from that service, in accordance with the definitions applied in such cases by the Veterans' Administration.

The term of each member of the Commission shall be four years, described for the initial members. In the event a vacancy occurs during the term of office of any member, a successor shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the office vacated in a manner similar to that described for the initial members. Vacant seat #4 (due to resignation), must be an at-large appointment for a term ending 1/15/04.

SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCO)

LAFCO is scheduled to hold a public hearing on Renewable Tidal Energy at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2003, in the Legislative Chambers, Room 250, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco.

REQUEST FOR BIDS - Solicitation No. 02-620-IFB-020

The San Francisco Housing Authority will receive sealed bids for the Fire Alarm System Upgrade at CAL 1-43, Robert B. Pitts Plaza, located in San Francisco. The Estimated Construction Cost is more than \$500,000. Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, are on file at the San Francisco Housing Authority office located at 1815 Egbert Avenue, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA, and will be available for inspection or issuance on or after February 10, 2003.

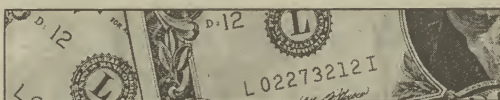
A processing fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable) will be required for each set of documents. All payments must be in the form of CERTIFIED CHECK, CASHIERS CHECK, or COMPANY CHECK payable to the SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING AUTHORITY. CASH or PERSONAL CHECK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

On Tuesday, February 25, 2003, at 10:00 a.m., prospective bidders will meet at the Resident Manager's Office, at 1150 Scott Street, San Francisco. A pre bid conference will follow the site inspections to discuss any questions relating to this work. All bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. (PST) and read aloud on the date of March 11, 2003.

Questions regarding this solicitation for bids may be directed to Basil Nicolaou, Senior Project Manager, at (415) 715-5942. Contact Rozina at (415) 715-3212 for Contract Documents.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

1823 Admin/Budget Manager, Department of Environment. Responsible for supervising and coordinating the administrative work of the Department. \$62,868 - \$76,440 www.slenvironment.com Application deadline Feb 21, 2003.



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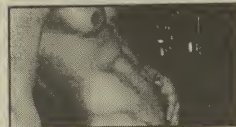
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LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Qualifications #234
Has been cancelled.

02/13/03
CNS- 497834#
BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE 0264320-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Stephen Gifts & Inter Trade, 1848 Newhall Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Shaohua Gao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 06, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/06/2003.

FEB. 13, 20, 27, MAR. 6, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0264130-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: MC Investment Of San Francisco, 40 Darrell Place #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Marianne C. Frank. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/30/2003.

FEB. 13, 20, 27, MAR. 6, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0264393-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Just For Jesus Ministries, 480 Ellis Street #428, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nathaniel Cherry. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 10, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/10/2003.

FEB. 13, 20, 27, MAR. 6, 2003

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Proposals #234
Has been cancelled.

02/13/03
CNS- 497769#
BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE 0264070-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: J.W.A. Consulting, 1766 35th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a general Partnership signed Noah Furhman and Glenn Zisholtz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/28/2003.

FEB. 13, 20, 27, MAR. 6, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0246176

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Chai House. Located at: 608 Geary Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business was conducted by an individual, signed Kalpesh P. Patel. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: January 21, 2001.

FEB. 13, 20, 27, MAR. 6, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 254619

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: uodirectmailing.com Located at: 574-39th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business was conducted by co-partners signed Wong Wai and Gerald Espanada. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: January 28, 2002.

FEB. 13, 20, 27, MAR. 6, 2003

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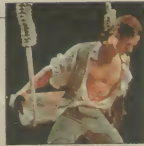
January 2003

F-to-M transsexual, with pickup
Robert Eads is at center of Kate Davis' 'Southern Comfort,' playing at Red Vic.
page 33

Gilbert & Sullivan gem
'Princess Ida' at YBCA for Lamplighters' 50th anniv.
page 38



Swinger in the spotlight
Gay dancer Keith Kuhl lights up 'Contact' tour.
page 28



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Yes, Virginia, two piano ballets

San Francisco Ballet dancers Julie Diana and Damian Smith in Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Elite Syncopations*

Premieres in SF Ballet Program II

by Stephanie von Buchau

Helgi Tomasson, whatever his virtues as artistic director, occasionally has half a blind eye when it comes to a dancer he likes and wants to succeed. I don't think he'd agree with that assessment, but the local careers of Elisabeth Loscavio and Lucia Lacarra are a case in point. Both were special dancers in certain repertory, but Tomasson was so taken by them that he thought they could do anything. The truth was that Loscavio, with her fresh, lovely technique, hadn't a dramatic bone in her body, while Lacarra was all nerve endings, and didn't have enough classical purity or stamina. Yet he cast both of them, hopefully, as if they possessed the very traits they were lacking. Still, I'll give Tomasson the occasional failure of judgment with dancers, because it is always positive on his part; I don't know any cases of him refusing to advance a dancer who deserved it. And also because, when it comes to making do with what he has, there may not be a better man in the business. Dancers have a notoriously short shelf life, and they are underpaid and overworked. Plus, they are human beings with complex nervous systems, not just meat on the hoof. Locating good ones is hard. Nurturing them is harder. Keeping them, especially in today's economic climate, is hardest of all.

Yet here we are, one strenuous Gala and two subscription programs into the San Francisco Bal-

page 30 ►

Essential movements

Merce Cunningham Dance Company in Berkeley

by Michael Wade Simpson

Merce Cunningham has been surfing ahead of the avant-garde for 50 years now without even coming close to the shore. What is it about his work that keeps it so weird, decade after decade? Is it the utter disregard for conventional musicality? Is it the movement itself, a cool, endless experiment in isolation and accidental staging that is fiendishly difficult to perform and attracts the best modern dancers anywhere? Or is it luck?

A Cunningham performance finds an audience attracted by the choreographer's ever-cool reputation, and then tested, even repelled, by the reality of the dance. The music may be electronic disturbance, a score by Cunningham's life partner John Cage (now deceased) with random scratchings and screechings, or silence, counted by an on-stage digital clock. The movement is a chain of dynamically varied phrases being performed without drama or emotional content, little unison or partnering, as clean and calculated as a mathematical formula, which may have been how the dance was actually put together. What is there to love?

And yet, Cunningham is one of the mostly greatly respected pioneers of dance in the world, period. Perhaps it is due to his perennial inability to create anything popular: he is the champion outsider, so far out he is always in. Cunningham has absolutely no ap-

page 42 ►

Cédric Andrieux and Jeanne Steele with Merce Cunningham Dance Company members in *Suite for Five*



SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Leonardo is set to visit San Francisco

And we mean da Vinci, not di Caprio; arrives with 'Splendor of Poland'

by Roberto Friedman

Last week when we motored out to the Palace of the Legion of Honor for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco press lunch, it was a sunny San Franciscan day, bright and clear; you could see the Golden Gate Bridge and Mt. Tam; but the Nation's Terror Alert had suddenly gone to Orange. We asked around the lunchtable, and everyone had heard about the alert. So why didn't we feel more Orange?

"Terrorism insurance and security costs have quadrupled the cost of transporting valuable art," said Fine Arts Museums Director Harry S. Parker. "There are grave implications for the future of special exhibitions." We got the impression he was speaking for the future of all art museums, not just FAM-SF.

We were given updates on the progress of the new Herzog & De Meuron-designed de Young Museum, the \$200 million construction project now going on in what Parker called the "ultimate sandbox," Golden Gate Park. We should start to see the glint of its copper-clad panels by the sunless summertime.

But the most exciting news at the FAM-SF press feed was the imminent arrival of the first Leonar-



Lady with an Ermine, ca. 1490

do da Vinci painting ever to be shown in San Francisco. The gay master's painting "Lady with an Ermine" is the centerpiece of *Leonardo da Vinci and the Splendor of Poland*, a show of European master paintings drawn from Poland's national collections, opening March 8 at the Legion. The Lady with the rodent, a portrait of one Cecilia Gallerani, c. 1490, is one of only 12 Leonardo paintings in existence, and it foreshadows his *Mona Lisa* of 1503-06. Rare and priceless art indeed. (Info at (415) 863-3330, or www.thinker.org.)

Baghdad, not by the Bay

Leaked plans of military action against Iraq published by the *New York Times* last week include 400-500 missile attacks every day: more attacks each day than during the entire Gulf War I. In the face of such barbarism and savagery,



Baez: "Courage is contagious."

Joan Baez and Reno appeared at the Castro Theatre last Friday night to speak out to an all-ages crowd.

Film critic B. Ruby Rich, introducing the screening of *Reno: Rebel Without a Pause* (which begins a run at the Roxie Feb. 26), proclaimed, "Reno's performance will show those de-motivated men in Washington that we are not all behind them!" Reno said the 9/11 nightmare began just as "I was working on a piece about the other Fundamentalist terrorists that we live with, the Christian ones."

After intermission, Reno came out in a long, purple wig and flowery skirt, looking like a drag queen version of *Mary* (of Peter, Paul and) doing a Joan Baez song. Thankfully, then the real Baez appeared onstage to take over and do the song properly.

Baez was in Hanoi during the Nixon/Kissinger carpet-bombing of that city. She played recordings she made of the bombing, she

played songs by Steve Earle. "People don't take risks anymore, politically and culturally," she observed from stage. "The last time people took risks was the Civil Rights Era and Vietnam. Courage is contagious, just as violence is contagious." An ardent nonviolence activist, she noted that nothing has failed more to effect progressive change "than organized violence." Kudos to Baez, and to Reno and producer Marc Huestis for organizing the evening. And thanks to our sterling spies for sussing out the scene.

Lyle on the aisle

We couldn't miss maestro Mstislav Rostropovich conduct Dmitri Shostakovich (No. 8) with the SF Symphony, since we figured the Russians might have something to say to us at this particular moment in history, having survived cataclysm, totalitarianism, and tribulations on a

supernatural scale; we were not disappointed. MR leads one more run of concerts this weekend. Catch Phil Campbell's Rostropovich wrap-up in next week's issue.

Spotted in house seats two rows in front of ours: superstar President of the Board of Supervisors

Matt Gonzalez, if possible looking even better in person than he does on public-access TV! Too bad he and his litesome date missed the opening Dutilleux fanfare. Memo to MG: The Symphony (unlike the Board of Supes mtgs.?) always starts right on time.

Almost Blue

Our crowd never likes to miss a party, especially if it involves art and crossdressing, and the Mission's snappy new gallery, The Blue Room, had both at its reception for Argentinean painter Hector Wamboldt's *Carnaval* show. The artist's paintings were mysterious and ambiguous, and so was Thalo Blue (an artistic name if we ever heard one), arrayed in a white sheath and heels, who lip-synched

with panache. The bohemian crowd loved it, as did our spy on the scene and his handsome companion.

Big scene, too, at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts a few weekends ago, for the opening of Charles LeDray, *Sculpture 1989-2001 and Five Projects: Contemporary Art from Sweden*. We loved the LeDray show, a showing of his fabricated clothing and pottery, often presented on an unusual scale. His "Charles" (1995), for example, is a tiny blue work-jacket with all sorts of clothes sewn to the hem: it's clothing that crossdresses! And LeDray's "Village People" (1995), a row of tiny versions of men's hats, looks like the checkroom at the Lexington Club.

The Sweden show includes video screenings of works by Annika Larsson which can be viewed as choreographed scenarios of male rituals, including *Cigar* and *40-15*, in which two men play



40-15, Annika Larsson (detail)

tennis in front of a mirror, as other men watch. YBCA info: (415) 978-ARTS, or www.YerbaBuenaArts.org.

The Ex-gay Files

Q Syndicate content provider David Bianco announced last month that he is selling his share of his gay-press syndication company because he is no longer gay. In his "Over the Rainbow" column, Bianco disclosed that he no longer has sex with men, for religious reasons (he is an Orthodox Jew). In an interview, Bianco said, "The fact that I no longer consider myself gay meant I was uncomfortable having

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Robert Moses' Kin dances James Baldwin

by Michael McDonagh

Funny thing, perception. We go to the same place twice, and it doesn't look the same. Maybe it's the light. At any rate, your reporter's latest visit to the San Francisco Dance Center, on 7th St. near Market, was a fresh experience. The elevator man opened the door and deposited us on the third floor. Sitting on the floor, waiting to be let into Rehearsal Room # 3, was Robert Moses' company. The African-American dancer-choreographer, in an oversized navy-blue T with same color pants, a black cap, and white sneakers, says a few words to his group. And then, as the door opens, he offers that it's going to be a "nuts and bolts" rehearsal.

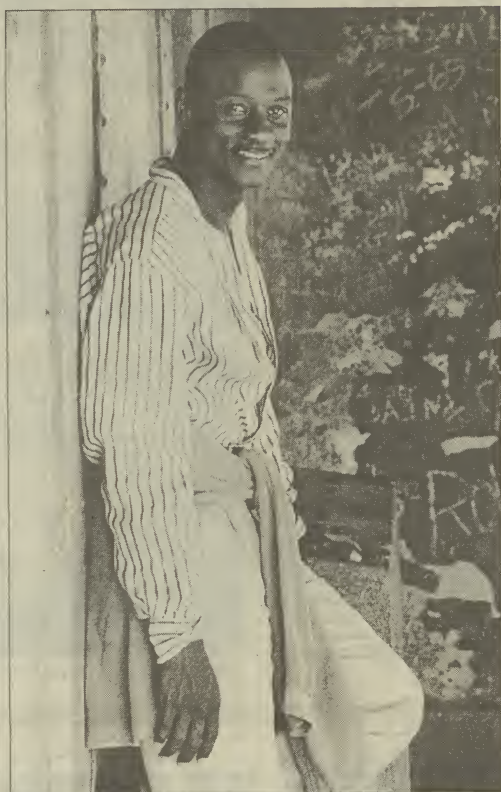
His corps, dressed in comfy street clothes, enter the room. They're playful with each other yet focused, clearly ready for serious work. On the room's left side, Moses gives directions to two pairs of men of similar heights and builds: two tall, two shorter. Then he gets up and demonstrates his wishes with the dancers. On the right side, the women — some Asian, some Caucasian, all petite — follow rehearsal director Gianna Davy's precise directions, performing solo, partnering, checking their moves in the mirror which runs across the length of the wall.

A few mornings later, we catch Moses at Quetzal on Polk Street. He's parked by the window, carrot cake before him, calm yet eager to talk. We decide to focus on one of the new pieces he'll unveil for his group's ninth anniversary season. This 20-minute dance piece, *A Biography of Baldwin*, centers on the outspoken gay African-American writer James Baldwin (1924-1987).

Moses says he discovered Baldwin's work while a student at Cal State University, Long Beach. "I found him to be speaking with a voice I hadn't heard before. I think Baldwin's attitude should always be considered important, because he was challenging himself to challenge others. This is the land of the free, and the home of the brave, but is it really?" The writer was also very explicit about who he was and what he was about — and Moses says, "If you can't deal with my truth, you really have a problem."

Leading lights

The soundscape for Moses' piece will be sections of a 95-minute interview from 1961 with Baldwin, and with other African-American luminaries like Langston Hughes (also gay) and playwright Lorraine Hansberry (A



Robert Moses: 'So much of Baldwin's work is about dialogue.'

Raisin in the Sun). This oral element was also a big part of the dancemaker's *Word of Mouth* (2002), which used projected poems as well as voices on tape, with Jose Maria Farcos' lighting design heightening the whole effect. *Word of Mouth* will be revived in the company's Cowell season.

Using words is a perfectly natural choice for Moses' new piece. After all, it's about a writer, and not using words would seem to cheat him quite literally of his voice, with its provocative point of view on race and culture. "So much of Baldwin's work is about dialogue with other American writers," the choreographer says. And the simple vernacular steps he devised for the older work will likely resurface here.

"You want to be explicit, but not obvious," Moses says. "You read intent in human body from body to body, and then energy, space, and rhythm set up a language, and force context. I want to put forward the relationship on-stage in the simplest, cleanest way. I'm also attracted to one idea that could be told in 20 different ways

in a 20-minute piece like *A Biography of Baldwin*. You go to the theatre for pleasure. But I also think it's important to live up to your ideals as best you can."

This is probably one of the reasons which led Moses to choose Baldwin as his subject. Baldwin didn't fit in, and rankled at that fact. But he also had the courage to be his own man, and dealt with his gayness in an assertive way, long before this kind of conduct became fashionable. In a time where dissent is discouraged and affirmative action may be dismantled, these just might be truths we need to hear again. And Moses' artistic context should do them proud. ▼

Robert Moses' Kin performs February 12-23 at Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Other pieces include *The Soft Sweet Smell of Warm Things*, and a revival of *Lucifer's Prance* (2000), to music from Act I of Philip Glass' *Akhmatov*. Box office: (415) 345-7575.

phrase 'a friend of Dorothy's?'" Now we can add the puzzler, "Why did we ever read this guy in the first place?"

Gaywatch

Savvy premium-cable-watchers caught the latest *Absolutely Fabulous* special imported from British broadcasting, *Ab Fab in New York*, which aired last Saturday night on Comedy Central. Edina's (Jennifer Saunders) quest to reunite with her es-

tranged son Serge (Josh Hamilton) found her and Patsy (Joanna Lumley) crossing the Pond, ready to take a big bite out of the Big Apple. The episode's setting during Fashion Week provided ample opportunity for cameos by Rufus Wainwright, Debbie Harry, and Graham Norton — but of course, Saunders as Eddy stole the show with her high hopes to find Serge: "I'll sniff him out! How many gay men can there be in New York?" ▼

Out There

◀ previous page

gay journalism be my life's work." Memo to DB: You made us every bit as uncomfortable.

We keep a copy of Bianco's *Gay Essentials: Facts for Your Queer Brain* (Alyson) around the office, just for laughs. It asks and answers such timeless questions as, "What were *Liberace's* legal victories?" and, "What is the origin of the

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Swinging with Keith Kuhl

'Contact' dancer is on a career high

by Richard Dodds

For *Contact* dancer Keith Kuhl, dancing has been a contact high. A dozen years ago, when Kuhl was barely a teen growing up in Albuquerque, he was deep into drugs.

"Pot and acid and coke and ecstasy," he said. "My parents were lost in their own dysfunctional world, and didn't have a clue I was on drugs."

But watching performers like Madonna, Janet Jackson, and Paula Abdul with their kinetic steps and eye-catching backup dancers rekindled an interest in dance that had been buried by drugs. "At 15, I started to dance again," Kuhl said, "and through the years, that got me out of drugs."

That, and the help of a gay guardian angel, a floral designer who gave Kuhl a part-time job and "who saved my life by showing me you could be gay and normal," Kuhl said. "That inspired me to go for my dreams."

Kuhl has been happily touring in *Contact* for the past two years, and that tour has returned to San Francisco, where it was launched in 2001. He plays different characters in each of the musical's three stories, told mostly through Susan Stroman's choreography, from an amorous French nobleman in the first scene to a stooped

old waiter at an Italian restaurant in the second to a hot-to-trot regular at a trendy swing-dance club in the third.

When *Contact* first played the Curran two years ago, *Chronicle* critic Rob Hurwitt described Kuhl's performance as "lupine." "I had never heard that description, but we actually looked it up after the review," the dancer said. "It means wolf-like or animal-like. It's a nice compliment. I guess I'm doing my job pretty well."

For Kuhl, who soon turns 27, *Contact* is his first foray into musical theater. The Los Angeles-based dancer's credits include TV, movies, commercials, music videos, and tours with recording stars including Ricky Martin — "the most humble, open, wonderful person that I've pretty much ever met," Kuhl said.

The types of credits he has achieved are exactly what he was going for when he left Albuquerque at age 18 to pursue his dream. "I was raised that of course I would go to college, but my father died late in my last year in high school," Kuhl said. "He was a very successful college-educated man with lots of money, and his life was miserable. That made me question if college is actually the right thing for everybody."

Against the advice of friends and family, Kuhl skipped college and, by age 19, was in Los Angeles,

trying to launch a career while making money, once again, working for a floral designer. "I regret not going to college just for the education," he said, "but I know I would not be where I am at all if I went to college. I love where I am, and my life is exactly what I dreamed it to be."

But, he acknowledged, sustaining those dreams will require some fine-tuning as he approaches 30. "I plan to be in Los Angeles for a few more years, and then move to New York, because in LA, it's all about youth. I'm 26, and I'm already getting old for LA. But in New York, the industry is a lot older, so I can dance longer in New York."

The *Contact* tour comes to an end on April 27, when Kuhl heads home to see what LA still holds for him. But for Kuhl, who auditioned for *Contact* on a lark, the experience has been exceptional.

"First of all, having a steady job is wonderful, and I don't have to always be stressed about when I'm going to work next," said Kuhl. "But the best thing has been the show itself. Unlike dancing behind a recording artist, the audience is there to see you. We tell the story. We are the show." ▼

Contact will run at the Curran Theatre through Feb. 16. Tickets are \$38-\$81. Call 512-7770.



Keith Kuhl and Mindy Franzese Wild in *Contact*: 'We are the show.'

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THEATRE

Finger-licking good

'Chicken: A 1-Ho Show' at the Marsh

by Richard Dodds

Although he now has a rubberized face just made for clowning, something like an older version of Andy Dick, it's not hard to imagine David Henry Sterry as a desirable teen whose servicing older women. This is the tale of *Chicken: A 1-Ho Show*, an autobiographical monologue that is part stand-up, part beat poetry, and part sexual horror story.

Sterry first chronicled his brief career as a Los Angeles gigolo in *Chicken: Self-Portrait of a Young Man for Rent*, a memoir published last year by HarperCollins. The solo show is an abridged version of the book, and it benefits from Sterry's sharp impersonations of the curious characters he encountered, and by his own incredulous reactions to situations in which he continually found himself.

It's a fascinating 90 minutes, but one that carries the baggage of rape-inspired homophobia. Flashbacks of his brutal violation return whenever Sterry is confronted with homosexual desires from his clients. While he is able to endure, and get it up for, the creepiest of heterosexual encounters, he nearly kills an old queen with a harmless kink.

What helps give the story a distinctive edge is the dichotomy between Sterry's life in the sordid fast lane and his alternate world as a middle-class kid at a Catholic college, where he is dating a sweet girl who actually wears pennies in her penny loafers.

Sterry has lifted some of his thicker metaphors from his book — empty cans become "the head-



David Henry Sterry creates a self-portrait of a young man as a gigolo.

stones of dead beers" — but he delivers them with a propulsive skill that soon brings us into his rhythms. Moods can change abruptly, and Sterry pulls us into his tremulous youthful consciousness with the mature confidence

of a master storyteller. ▼

Chicken: A 1-Ho Show will run at the Marsh through March 1. Tickets are \$10-\$15. Call 641-0235.

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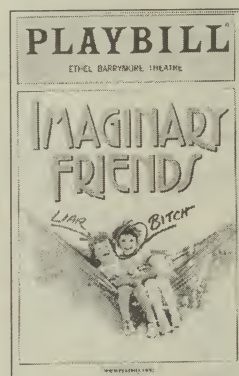
'Imaginary Friends' on Broadway

by Will Shank

Soon to close on Broadway is Nora Ephron's first theater piece, *Imaginary Friends*. Writer Ephron, much admired for her books (*Heartburn*) and screenplays (*When Harry Met Sally*), took a disastrous step here by attempting to create a drama/comedy out of a fairly non-existent relationship between two other writers, Lillian Hellman and Mary McCarthy.

The concept is as thin as skim milk. Once, on a 1980 *Dick Cavett* show, the aged novelist McCarthy called playwright Hellman a liar: "Every word she writes is a lie, including 'and' and 'the.'" Solely based on this outrageous televised statement, Ephron has fashioned a play that circles around one quote and squeezes it dry. We see a clip from the Cavett show (cleverly edited so that the real McCarthy is replaced by actress Cherry Jones) not once but twice. We observe McCarthy editing herself; she first considers saying not "the," but "but," opting for the former because "but" could be misinterpreted.

Dramatizing the life of a writer is not easy, and Ephron fails painfully. Lacking her own devices to create dramatic tension, she stoops to projecting a clip from the film *Julia*, in which Jane Fonda as Hellman throws a typewriter



Nora Ephron's play: soon to close.

through a window.

The actresses appear to be having a good time in spite of the skimpy material. Statuesque Jones and the always watchable Swoosie Kurtz, as Hellman, make the most of their verbal cat-fights. They also get to ham it up in Baby Jane Hudson toddler garb. The second act is far worse than the first, with the Minneapolis childhood of McCarthy becoming entangled in some inexplicable way with the New Orleans childhood of Hellman.

A big thumbs-down to Marvin Hamlish, who appears to have been called in at the last minute

when the producers discovered there wasn't enough material to constitute a two-act stage play, so some songs were stuck in (lyrics by Craig Carnelia). Both actresses, and the supporting cast, can carry a tune, but the songs have nothing to do with the action, and frequently stop the limping plot dead in its tracks.

Distinguished literary figures like Hellman (*The Children's Hour*) and McCarthy (*The Group*) deserve better than this farce. So, too, do actors of the stature of Cherry Jones, who glowed as the original Catherine in Lincoln Center's *The Heiress*. Hollywood, get me re-write! ▼

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Sir Colin Davis and 'LSO Live' on CD

by Tim Pfaff

Pamela Rosenberg's announcement that Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, with which San Francisco Opera has a distinguished if odd history, was again in the Opera's sights was heartening. Her subsequent words about the budget don't bode well for the project. *Les Troyens* is probably the second greatest challenge an opera company can undertake, after *The Ring*. Somehow, it all bestows new importance on one of the bigger opera CDs of 2002 (a light-year in opera recordings overall). Sir Colin Davis' live, second recording of the work.

The flagship of the London Symphony Orchestra's *LSO Live* series (similar to the SF Symphony's own-made recordings), it won near-unanimous raves from the imperious British press—and took its sweet time making its way to Bangkok. Davis' first, Philips recording of the work was the highlight of my graduate-school years, and the prospect of an older, wiser Davis, leading my personal favorite of London's five orchestras with a promising cast, made it all the more tantalizing.

Sorry to say, the most this four-CD set is likely to do is take up the slack. It's a serious, conscientious, well-executed account of a great, troublesome score, and it's not without its moments of magic and nobility. It's merely a second

runner to Davis' first set, gratefully still in print, and a deflating commentary on the state of singing today.

There are few weak links in a cast of amazingly uniform quality, and not a single singer who can match his or her counterpart on the 30-plus-year-old Philips set. Startlingly, for a work of this scale and unmanageability, it hasn't

wanted for great recordings since the legendary Covent Garden production on which Davis' studio recording, with a slightly different cast, was based. The best of them, however, are broadcast tapes. For me, the finest come from three decades of Met broadcasts (and telecasts), beginning in 1974 under the inspired leadership of Rafael Kubelik, with Jon Vickers as



Aeneas, Christa Ludwig as Dido, and Shirley Verrett as Cassandra. Since then, the Met has served up equally commanding performances (including telecasts)

under James Levine, with Jessye Norman (as Dido, Cassandra, and, occasionally, like Verrett, as both in the same performance) in her prime, and Domingo stepping into Vickers' shoes with his customary authority.

That was then. Live in London in early December 2000, how things have changed! Ben Hepp-

page 38 ►

SF Ballet

◀ Arts cover

Let's 70th Anniversary season, and Tomasson is looking like a blinking genius. He's got dancers on maternity leave (Tina LeBlanc), dancers nursing sore body parts (Joan Boada), dancers nearing the final curtain (Yuri Possokhov, Kristin Long) and major departures from last season (Joanna Berman, Lacarra, Cyril Pierre), all making the company somewhat thin and precarious. Injuries could wreak havoc.

Yet there has been no loss of star power. Lacarra and Berman gone? Lorena Feijoo and Yuan Yuan Tan have more than stepped up to the plate—both have whacked it out with the bases full. Tan's opening Gala "Grand Pas Classique," her title role in Tomasson's "Chi-Lin" (I didn't see it this year, but was reliably told she's better than ever), and her assumption of the girl in pink in

Jerome Robbins' "Dances at a Gathering" underscore her versatility and adaptation to different styles without any diminution of wattage.

Syncopated hottie

Feijoo is equally Promethian, steaming up Val Caniparoli's tango at the Gala, being strictly Balanchine in "Ballo della Regina" (incidentally, the music for that ballet is from Verdi's French opera *Don Carlos*, not his Italian *Don Carlo*, which has no ballet music), the flirtatious girl in green in "Dances at a Gathering," and a hoochie-coochie hottie in Kenneth MacMillan's "Elite Syncopations." Plus, how many of us are counting the days until her Kitri in the Tomasson-Possokhov *Don Quixote* next month?

Not that these two glittering ballerinas are carrying the entire load. Long, who has always been reliable but somewhat faceless, has suddenly developed a mature smolder that made Tomasson's "Chaconne" much deeper than previously suspected. Julie Diana is probably miscast as Giselle, but she drifted elegantly as Robbins' girl in mauve, while her lead in MacMillan's confection showed that this "wafting smoke" Romantic dancer can can-can with the best.

Diana manages to be perky and spunky without drowning us in that all-American cheerleader shallowness that defeated Loscavio's attempts at high drama. In



Katita Waldo, Gonzalo Garcia, Yuan Yuan Tan in *Dances at a Gathering*.

both her high-kicking "Stop Time Rag" and her swoony "Bethena" concert waltz (with Damian Smith), Diana was the star of "Elite Syncopations." Smith, with his rugged masculinity, has long been an ideal partner for the vulnerable Diana. I keep waiting for

someone to make a serious piece for them, but they were certainly entertaining in "Syncopations." His pencil mustache and "Aha, me proud beauty" sneer were priceless.

Once again, Gonzalo Garcia justified Tomasson's faith in the young Spaniard. He moved up in "Dances at a Gathering" from the casual flirt in brick (Hansuke Yamamoto this time) to the pensive boy in brown, just as Tan progressed from mauve (the light-hearted romantic) to pink (the serious girl who dances with the boy in purple). Just by moving the dancers around, Tomasson signals that he is helping everybody grow, and planning how to make bouquets from their various talents.

Other good dancing on display in "Syncopations," which was receiving its SFB premiere on Program II, came from Vanessa Zahorian (in a blond fright-wig), who danced with insouciant Stephen Legate, and tall, leggy Muriel Maffre, who towered over diminutive James Sofranko in one of those joke pairings (she must be well over six feet on pointe) that constitutes ballet humor.

Both "Dances at a Gathering" and "Elite Syncopations" are piano ballets, with Daniel Waite once again providing the rhythmic Chopin for Robbins' work. Pianist Michael McGraw and a small, costumed band were onstage for the MacMillan, pumping out rags by Scott Joplin, Joseph Lamb, Max Morath and others. If only this 1974 piece had less-dated costumes. True, you can see the bodies move through Ian Spurling's brightly painted tights, but the 1970s decorator colors and the disfiguring hats deserve to be 86ed. ▼

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Lucie in the sky

New version of Donizetti's classic tale

by Jason Serinus

Donizetti: *Lucie de Lammermoor*
Dessay, Alagna, Tézler, Orchestre
& Chœur de l'Opéra National de
Lyon, Evelino Pidò
(Virgin Classics)

With few new complete opera recordings appearing these days, the release of a new version of Donizetti's classic tale of love and madness is cause for excitement. That Virgin captures for the first time Donizetti's 1839 French revision of *Lucia* (now *Lucie*), first premiered in Italian four years earlier in Naples, arouses even greater interest.

Donizetti made many changes to his score before the French premiere. Not only are the roles of the chaplain Raimondo shortened, and that of Lucia's maid Alisa cut entirely, but other characters and scenes are revised. Most striking are the omissions of Lucia's Act I cavatina "Regnava nel silenzio," her Act II scene with Raimondo, and several orchestral episodes; some of Lucia's (Lucie's) coloratura is also simplified. This may not sound like a big deal, but when opera queens expect necklaces of diamonds and instead receive strands of pearls, disappointment is the order of the day.

The cast, headed by French coloratura soprano Natalie Dessay and EMI's operatic tenor



of the decade, Roberto Alagna, promises more than it delivers. Dessay has canceled many performances in the last 12 months, with ill health and vocal problems variously cited as the reason. Recorded in January 2002, she certainly sounds in good vocal estate. But compared to some of our most lauded Lucias of the last half-century, Dessay comes up last. It's not that Dessay's voice isn't beautiful and her top solidly in place; rather, her emotional commitment, as well as her phrasing, seem generalized, not inspired.

One has only to listen to recordings by any of Dessay's "rivals" to discover what is missing from her interpretation. Beverly Sills' Lucia (Rudel cond.), recently remastered on Westminster, remains the most imaginative of the lot. Wonderful throughout, Sills' brilliant use of rubato, shading, iridescent tone, and coloratura display truly suggest a descent into madness. She may possess neither the glorious, shining E-

flat of Joan Sutherland (Bonyne cond.) nor her ravishing trill, but Sills' response to Donizetti's score is so alive that no one in their right mind will complain. Callas, heard in her famed 1955 live performance conducted by von Karajan, astounds with a combination of vocal instability, feather-light runs, deeply felt pathos, and steely, solid high E-flats.

Each of these women is supported by a conductor more imaginative than Evelino Pidò, who frequently makes Donizetti's tunes sound more oom-pah-pah than need be. (When a melody is pedestrian, Bonyne knows how to breeze through it with excitement.) Tenor co-star Roberto Alagna certainly has the notes and commitment, but his throatiness and occasional gruffness show sorry evidence of singing too many heavy roles. Alongside Callas' thrilling di Stefano, Sutherland's gloriously-voiced Pavarotti (in her second recording), and Sills' accomplished Bergonzi, Alagna delivers a performance more dutiful than memorable.

When Sills, Sutherland and Callas are heard in ensemble, specifically in the famed Sextet, the vocal superiority of their co-stars and conductor, combined with the greater satisfaction afforded by Donizetti's Italian version, will instill greater fondness for older recordings of Donizetti's masterpiece. ▼

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The wrong stuff

by Victoria A. Brownworth

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Doing what they do best, the networks rallied around yet another national tragedy as the Columbia shuttle disintegrated miles above the Earth. Nonstop reporting on the day of the disaster followed by more in-depth coverage reminded viewers of the courage it takes to be a pioneer. The media, and TV in particular, have played fast and loose with the term "hero" in recent years; not every person who dies is a hero. People die before their time every day; it's what they did in their lives that signals their heroism. It takes guts to get in a sophisticated tin-can and fly into space, knowing that you might not come back, or might not even get off the launchpad. It's a risk in the name of progress; those who take that risk are pioneers. Being a pioneer is always heroic work.

Veteran ABC reporter Jim Wooten did a very moving tribute to the seven astronauts on *Nightline* at week's end. We saw them as they lived — serious, funny, religious, joyous, determined. They seemed a deeply committed group, and Wooten, who has reported from some of the grimmest places on Earth, brought them to life for us, making us realize that their sacrifice was truly our loss. These were people trying to change the world in a quiet way. Wooten's report and much of the reportage surrounding the tragedy showed the networks at their very best.

Jackson whacking

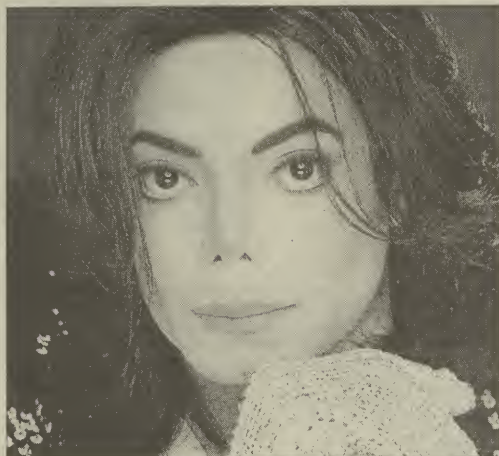
ABC did the best reporting on the Columbia, particularly with its follow-up programming on *Nightline*. Unfortunately, that will do little to mitigate the damage they did to their media karma in airing the invidious "documentary" on Michael Jackson with British reporter Martin Bashir. That someone of Barbara Walters' journalistic stature would give her imprimatur to such smarm with her introduction and narratives of the piece just adds to the offense. The *pièce de résistance* was the icky earnestness of the interviewing of the interviewer: Chris Wallace (like Walters, a real journalist scouring in the muck with this one) doing a post-Freudian post-op with Bashir.

The Jackson documentary garnered massive ratings, and an equal amount of criticism and kudos. It aired on Grenada TV (the closest thing the UK has to an ordinary network) two days before it aired on a special edition of *Prime Time*, so the hype was high prior to the ABC airing.

Certainly it was must-see TV. In statements released after the program aired, Jackson said through his attorneys (he wanted, not surprisingly, to sue) that he had never felt so betrayed. Not, perhaps, since his father last beat the holy hell out of him for missing a dance step when he was six.

If you were not among the 30 million viewers to see the Jackson interview, the low lights you missed were the incredibly empty and isolated life the superstar leads, and his obsession with children.

Much has been made of Jackson's alleged pedophilia. Having watched every sleazy minute of the interview and wrap-up, we would say this: Jackson is the most obvious case of arrested develop-



Michael Jackson, a case of arrested development, doesn't deserve bashing.

ment we've witnessed since the last time we saw Woody Allen or John MacEnroe in public. His adoration of children seems an offshoot of a childhood in which he was both brutalized and kept from life's ordinary pleasures, all to further the career of his meglomaniacal father.



Lavender Tube

His whole life revolves around pleasures only children truly appreciate. The Neverland

ranch is like a mini-Disneyland, only more lovely and without the long lines. Jackson has dedicated himself and his vast fortune to making children, his own and others, happy in ways he never was.

Does that make him a pedophile? Perhaps in the purest sense of the term; but, in watching Jackson, the lack of sexual spark is obvious. When he talks of having children in his bed, it sounds more like the detailing of a prepubescent sleeper than a sexual event.

Damaged goods

Watching Jackson spend endless empty hours devoid of any true companionship was deeply saddening. His finest hours seemed to be spent rewarding (mostly female) fans with autographs and hugs. Seeing Bashir flog him mercilessly about his relationships with children and his facial reconstruction made us squirm. Could it be more obvious how damaged a human being Jackson is? How deeply scarred, emotionally and physically, he is? Watching Bashir harangue him seemed tantamount to watching someone pull wings off flies.

Does it really matter whether Jackson has had two plastic surgeries, as he alleges, or 200? Hasn't body modification become a part of modern life? Is it an obvious reflection of inner misery? Absolutely. But it's Jackson's inner turmoil, not ours. He has to live with that face, just as he has to live with his memory of the merciless taunting by his father and siblings over his looks as an acne-ridden, wide-nosed adolescent. Jackson is reconstructing himself, and offering kids who have miserable lives some access to joy.

It's not all good. Jackson doesn't handle his own children particularly well. The scene of him feeding his youngest son was disturbing, as was the infamous balcony scene in Berlin (which Bashir

witnessed, but did nothing to stop). These are things to be watched, but the whole world is watching, particularly after this interview. Jackson now seems the least likely person on the planet to avoid scrutiny of his relationships with his or anyone else's children.

That Bashir loathes Jackson is obvious. He was unmoved by the singer at any point in the interview, which was a culmination of eight months spent with the superstar. Almost no mention of Jackson's immense contributions to music history was made.

In her interview with Larry King last week, Elizabeth Taylor was asked about her relationship with Jackson. She stood up for him, and explained that their deeply troubling childhoods were what bonded them together.

Taylor will no doubt get some heat for some of her responses to King, particularly related to AIDS. She corrected King when he referred to Herb Ritts' recent death "from AIDS." "Pneumonia," asserted Taylor, who was close friends. Ritts had kept his diagnosis secret; is it Taylor's responsibility to out him or protect him? Will this question ever be resolvable?

Taylor does have most of her facts straight on AIDS, unlike, say, CBS. On the its highly acclaimed drama *The Guardian* this week, viewers witnessed a gay man dressed as a woman (referred to as a transvestite throughout, not transgendered) trying to gain custody of his dead lover's son. The lover died of AIDS, though this might be conjecture on our part, as the word AIDS was never mentioned in the show, nor was the word gay. The lover was referred to as having been "sick," and the surviving partner said s/he had never been tested because s/he was afraid. Then s/he turned up at the custody hearing in men's clothes, and pleaded for custody of the boy. But the boy chose to live with his uncle, who had a treehouse. The End. Just in case you thought in 2003 there was some understanding of queer life in America, TV is there to let you know you are mistaken.

Let's not forget that the controversy over Jackson is about homophobia as much as about celebrity. Jackson is perceived as queer, even though he is perhaps the most asexual person in America. These are dark days in our land. War is looming, and misperceptions of who is who are rampant. TV, for good or ill, continues to be the best litmus of where we stand in the world. Which should make us all very, very afraid. ▼

FILM

Beware of that tra-la-la

'Quai des Orfevres' at the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

Like any good murder mystery, Henri-Georges Clouzot's 1947 *Quai des Orfevres* has a crackerjack plot, strong characters, rich atmosphere, and a few surprises. This film is less well-known than his *Diabolique* and *Wages of Fear*, but, in a crisply restored print with

new subtitles, it merits a large audience during its February 14-20 run at the Castro Theatre.

The voluptuous Suzy Delair (then Clouzot's mistress) is Jenny Lamour, a music-hall entertainer hoping to star in films. Her rendition of the suggestive "Avec Son Tra-La-La" thrills audiences and tempts men. She's a happily married flirt, and faithful to the jealous Maurice (Bernard Blier).

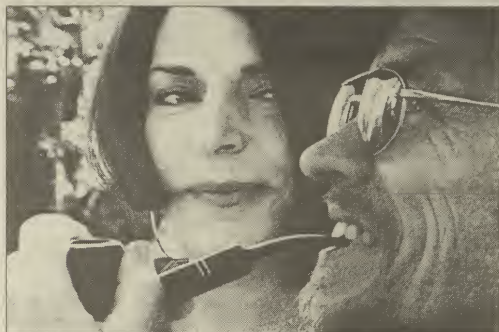
Jenny is a one-man woman, only Maurice doesn't know it: When she makes a lunch date with the elderly, reptilian movie producer Brignon (Charles Dullin), he prevents her from keeping it, and threatens to kill the old man.

Maurice's best friend is Dora, an elegant photographer (Simone Renant, considered France's most beautiful woman at the time). Dora is infatuated with Jenny, but doesn't let on. Determined to advance her career, Jenny goes to Brignon's house for dinner, telling Maurice she's nursing her sick grandmother. He becomes suspicious when he cannot reach her by phone. He finds a scrap of paper proving Jenny lied to him. Maurice establishes an alibi, and leaves for Brignon's house planning murder, only to find him dead.

Jenny, meantime, has fled to Dora's, explaining that she killed Brignon while defending herself from his repellent sexual advances. She realizes she has left her fur wrap behind at his house. Dora tells her to take the train to her grandmother's and say that's where she's been all night. Dora goes to Brignon's, recovers the fur, wipes off Jenny's fingerprints, and returns to her flat. She has just arrived when Maurice knocks on her door, explaining that he found Brignon's body and that Jenny had been unfaithful to him. Dora calms his jealousy, telling him to call Jenny at her grandmother's. He finds her there, and accepts her



Henri-Georges Clouzot's 1947 mystery includes a few lipstick lesbians.



Lola Cola and Robert Eads in videomaker Kate Davis' moving portrait.

Backwoods

trannies

'Southern Comfort' premieres at the Red Vic

by David Lamble

At the end of *Southern Comfort*, playing the Red Vic Movie House February 13-19, we hear the words, "Nature delights in diversity. Why don't human beings?" By this time, we already know the heartbreaking answer. At first, Robert Eads seems like a slightly updated version of a character out of James Dickey's *Deliverance*. Driving his pickup through the backwoods of Georgia, Eads puffs on a pipe while joking about getting a recent invitation to join the local version of the Klan. "I imagine there would be quite a scene in that room if I walked into a meeting and disclosed who I really am."

Who Robert Eads really is infuses virtually all the scenes of videomaker Kate Davis' terrifically moving and nicely restrained portrait of a new kind of family, headed up by a very new kind of man. As we meet him, Eads, a 52-year-old female-to-male transsexual, is dying from the last vestiges of the gender identity he's resisted since trading a childhood doll for a bow-and-arrow set. He's suffering from terminal ovarian cancer, the result of a botched operation. Eads, who would seem right at home as a good old boy arguing his right to bear arms in Michael Moore's *Bowling for Columbine*, reflects on the irony of his fate while cleaning his rifle. "It's kind of a cruel joke, that the last, only part of me that was really female is killing me."

Eads, a very loving and remarkably good-humored man, loves his male-to-female partner,

Lola Cola, his female-to-male sons, his two biological sons — Eads notes that the only time he felt at all gay was when he was the pregnant, male-identified wife of a biological man — and his three-year-old grandson, who he says is the only person on Earth who sees him as he is now, rather than who he was.

If *Southern Comfort* were fiction, we would be tempted to credit the costume designer for the uncanny resemblance between Eads and his new tranny family, who, except for Lola, all bear the wispy beards and backwoods dress and manners last seen in *Ma* and *Pa Kettle* movies.

Davis manages to dramatize the battles transgendered people face, especially with the medical profession. Several doctors refused Eads treatment on the grounds that it might upset their other patients. Eads' tranny son Max complains bitterly that doctors performing reconstructive surgery deliberately avoid making new body parts look and feel like the real thing.

The film gets its title not from the drink, but from the annual meeting of transgendered Southerners that in the end becomes Robert Eads' reason for living. Davis tactfully captures painful splits within the transgendered community. A female-to-male delegate, feeling shut out of the inner councils at *Southern Comfort*, complains to the camera, "It really hurts when the only people in the world who should know you, don't fully understand." ▼

Red Vic info: (415) 668-3994

explanation for not having answered her earlier call.

Enter Detective Lieutenant Antoine (Louis Jouvet). His methodical approach and insight into human nature slowly make him suspect Maurice. He cracks his alibi and seems not to believe him when he denies killing Brignon. Soon, Jenny and Dora must also face his relentless determination to solve the murder. The investigation also reveals much about Antoine, who eventually discovers the surprising truth about Brignon's killer.

Dark-haired music-hall star Delair is splendid as the sensual Jenny. Her love for Maurice is convincing, as is her naiveté in thinking she could avoid Brignon's casting couch. Renant is quite moving as the lonely Dora, one of the screen's first lipstick lesbians. Blier is fine as Maurice, a man tormented by the knowledge that he, so ordinary, is loved by the

exceptional Jenny. His insecurity nearly destroys their lives.

The legendary Jouvet, hailed as France's greatest stage and screen actor of the era, is riveting as Antoine. His life seems bereft of emotion, except for his love for his black African son, whom he brought back with him after serving in the Foreign Legion. The cheerfully carnal Jenny symbolizes Antoine's own unfulfilled desire. As he says to Dora, "We're alike. When it comes to women, we'll never have a chance." It's a remarkable moment, filled with compassion for her and a rueful lack of self-pity.

Clouzot's direction is swift but not rushed. He superbly captures the seedy backstage music-hall ambience and the bleak post-World War II atmosphere of Paris, almost making the audience feel the damp cold. This is a remarkable entertainment, not to be missed. ▼



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OUT&ABOUT



Adealani Malia and Robert Bottoms join in the singing and dancing of *Swing!* at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. See Wednesday.



Footloose's "Women on the Way" series presents Terry Baum in *Waiting for the Podiatrist* at Venue 9. See Friday.

Fri 14

Oscar Wilde @ Berkeley City Club

Wilde Irish Productions/Central Works present the West Coast premiere of *The Importance of Being Oscar* by Micheál mac Liammóir, about the life and work of Oscar Wilde, who left his native Ireland and traveled to Victorian London in search of fame. His writing brought him plenty of that, while his gay lifestyle brought him infamy. Performed by Arthur Scappaticci; directed by Gemma Whelan; designed by Richard Olmsted. \$8-\$20 sliding. 8pm Thu, Fri & Sun; 5pm Sun. 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Tix: 510-558-1381.

Sale @ Under One Roof

Under One Roof will be having the biggest sale of the year this First Ladies Day weekend, Feb. 14-17, at the former Valley Pride Market. The organization hopes to raise well over \$50,000 at this event, selling merchandise donated from the Fancy Food Show, Gift Center, major SF retailers, Northern California Independent Booksellers and more. Every penny from your purchases goes to one of dozens of AIDS service organizations. 549 Castro St. Info: 503-2300; underoneroof.org

'Valentine's Night Out' @ The Center

Our Family Coalition presents the "2nd Annual Valentine's Night Out," with Honorary Host, the Hon. Carole Migden. Featuring dancing and live entertainment on the 2nd floor in the "Love Lounge" (sliding scale donation); Calif. State Domestic Partnership registration on the 4th floor in the "Chapel of Love" (\$25 fee includes state fee, notary fee, souvenir picture, rose and an in-free stamp to the dance); a Wedding Cake Cutting Ceremony; Valentine's Night Out Sweetheart Pictures (\$5 donation); legal questions answered about family matters; Chocolate and Rose Sale; a kiss-in; prizes for best wedding attire. Childwatch available until 8:30pm. 6:30-10pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: ourfamily.org

Eric Kupers @ Jon Sims Center

AI Space artist-in-residence Eric Kupers performs "Undressed Phase II," a work-in-progress dance experiment that explodes popular conceptions of public nudity. It lays bare the fears and insecurities in which pop culture has clothes us, positing a society in which the spontaneous power of the naked human body in all its rich variety is honored and revered. Kupers, co-founder and artistic director of Dandelion Dance Theater, has danced with the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, Della Davidson Dance Company, and with choreographers Joe Goode, Stephen Pelton, Nancy Karp and others. He currently is a Choreography MFA candidate at UC Davis

and also teaches at CSU Hayward. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402; jonsimsctr.org

Traveling Art Circus @ Noh Space

The Traveling Art Circus presents *The Pseudo-Intellectual*, by Dan Grenda and Mark Edwards, directed by Lodewijk Broekhuizen and Edwards. The play delves into the life of one Rex McFadden, a typical midwestern boy raised dysfunctionally by 1890s television. It promises to tickle your funny bone, pinch your inner child, and leave you feeling it was okay to wear feathered hair in the '80s. \$12-\$15 sliding (\$10 student). 8pm (2pm Sun). Thru Feb. 22. 2840 Mariposa St. (at Alameda).

Terry Baum @ Venue 9

Footloose presents *Waiting for the Podiatrist*, the 2003 season opener of the "Women on the Way" series. Writer Terry Baum portrays herself caught between a deathly ill father and a terminally irritating mother. Will mother and daughter pull the plug on their beloved but comatose patriarch? If not, where can they find a podiatrist to cut his monstrous toenails? Music by Scumbly Koldewyn; lyrics by David Hyman. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix/info: 289-2000; venue9.com

'Cheap Trick' @ The Stud

Jeff and Gary (Reform School; Love Haight Lounge) present their latest dance night, with DJ Jeff Chandler mixing eclectic electro, indie, old-school, funk, pop, rock party sounds. The place gets packed with a very cute, young crowd, and the dancing is non-stop. Every Friday, 10pm-4am. 9th & Harrison.

Valentine's Bonfire @ Ocean Beach

Ggreg Taylor presents the latest in his bonfire series, and says this one's gonna be a whopper with men aplenty (expect more than 150 guys) under an almost full moon. Men make better friends outside of bars. Later, booze hounds can do the Int'l Bear Rendezvous South-of-Market bar crawl. Bonfire goes 8:30pm-midnight. Near



Arthur Scappaticci plays Oscar Wilde in *The Importance of Being Oscar* at the Berkeley City Club. See Friday.

Great Highway at Fulton St. Info: ggreg.com/misc/bonfires.htm

Sat 15

'Diva-Ersity 2.0' @ MCC-SF

Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco (MCC-SF), hosts DIVA-ERSITY 2.0 - Kings and Queens of Hearts: A Talent Show and Auction in The Castro, hosted by Michael Cronin and Carolyn Eidsen, featuring performances by members of the church and other local talent. Miss Rhoda Ruin (aka Robert Miller) will be presenting varied auction items including fine art, fine dining, fun hats and other treasures. A benefit for the community outreach, social services and educational programs of MCC-SF, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon. \$10. 8-10pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: www.mccsf.org

Butoh workshop @ JSCA

Ledoh and Salt Farm present "Organic," a 2-day Butoh Dance Workshop. Observe the body and mind's conditioning without judgment; register its condition and then go beyond it to another level. Ledoh was born in the Karen culture of Burma, grew up in the US, and has been performing Butoh since 1989. Limit 20 students. \$80 per day payable at door. 2:30-5:30pm today & Sun, Feb. 16. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St., Studio #1.

'ButchDicks' @ Eros

Opening reception: "The ButchDick Collection — Drawings of Naked Men," by local artist Loren J. Macias, who will also be a vendor at IBER (Int'l Bear Rendezvous) at the Ramada Hotel (Market & 8th St.) during Valentine's Day weekend, where images form his entire catalog will be available on prints and t-shirts. 7-9pm. 2051 Market St.

Gay Chinese New Year's @ Ginger's Trois

Join Ggreg Taylor for his 7th annual Chinese New Year Parade party at Ginger's Trois, the only gay bar on the parade route. Ggreg and company take over the bar and have a hoot. Fancy dress encouraged: clowns, Santas, trannies, and bears, oh my. 6-8:30pm. 246 Kearny Street.

'LitBEARary Salon' @ A Different Light Bookstore

"LitBEARary Salon," presented in celebration of the annual Int'l Bear Rendezvous. Featuring readings by Ron Suresha (Bears on Bears; Bearotica), Jonathan Cohen (Bear Like Me), Daniel M. Jaffe (The Limits of Pleasure) and Joel Perry (Funny That Way; Going Down). Free. 2:30-4pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; adlibooks.com

John Newmeyer @ Bright Moon Press

Essayist Dr. John Newmeyer reads from his second collection, *Road Grace Essays* for a New Renaissance, featuring new tidbits of mordant wit. Several of the essays in *Road Grace* are about Newmeyer's ideas for blunting the impacts of AIDS and substance use on our society. Free. 1-5pm. 2004 Gough St.

Linda Pancost @ Metro City Bar

"Bon Voyage Linda Pancost," a gathering to say farewell to the longtime owner of The Tower Lounge and The Phone Booth as she relocates to Auburn, CA. Join with friends to wish the best for this long-time community supporter. 3-7pm. Metro City Bar & Restaurant, 3600 16th St. (at Market). Info: 703-9751.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

'Id/Entity' images

Though the dot-com boom long ago went bust, the dot-com imagination survives and even thrives in the local art world. Witness the upcoming exhibition at SF Camerawork, *Id/Entity: Portraiture in the 21st Century*, which offers a range of media-art projects exploring how changing technologies affect artistic representations of "self."

These investigations simultaneously look back at traditional photographic portraiture and forward to the future. The artists involved include Jim Campbell, who creates LED portrait diptychs that communicate with each other; Julia Scher, who has set up a photo booth with 12 video cameras that capture less-than-flattering, surveillance-inspired portraits; The Surveillance Camera Players, those folks who perform theatrics in front of NYC surveillance cameras; JD Beltran, who has saved answering machine messages for artistic posterity; and Paul Kaiser, whose free-form video "dance" for hands was created in collaboration with legendary choreographer/dancer Merce Cunningham.

It's intriguing that SF Camerawork, which has long showcased the products of more traditional camera techniques, at this juncture is moving into the digital/high tech age. Apparently the make-money-or-bust mentality has finally given way to the urge to create art, not overnight millions, and the prospects for this show look good.

This Tuesday's opening night event at SF Camerawork's Folsom Street gallery features a "Collaborative Tele-Presence Exhibit" that allows users to "explore" live remote environments by directing "Tele-Actors" in remote locales, such as a rainforest, a biotech lab, a political rally, or an art opening. These remote players are skilled performers connected by cameras and microphones to a wireless digital network. Collaborators Ken Goldberg, Dez Song, Annamaria Ho and Anthony Levandowski of UC Berkeley had to master these network-based systems, just as shutterbug Ansel Adams once mastered the mechanics of a Hasselblad. ▼

The opening reception for 'Id/Entity' at SF Camerawork takes place on Tuesday, February 18, 5-8 p.m., at 1246 Folsom St. (between 8th & 9th streets). For details, call 863-1001 or visit the web at sfcamerawork.org



New media at SF Camerawork

Closing Party @ 'Palladium'

Gus presents the final mega-party for "Palladium," with DJ Abel spinning the club's dance hits one last time before it goes on permanent vacation. The entire venue will be open. Welcome Bears from the International Bear Rendezvous 2003. Beefy Boyz, Papi n' Pup and Castrobear bring you "Sweat" in the Redroom, with sounds by DJ David Wade. \$20. 9:30pm-late. 525 Harrison (near 1st). Info: gusresents.com

Anon Salon @ Avalon Ballroom

Anon Salon presents "Planet of Luv," a sphere of sensual spirits and pulsing theaterotica for the orbiting heart, featuring The Venusians and lots more. Mixed (mostly straight) crowd, always with a queer twist. \$15 adv.; \$20 door; \$5 off in spacial skinwear (love suits). 9pm-late. Sutter btwn Van Ness & Polk. Info/tix: anonasalon.com

Sun 16**'Out Against War'**

Join the Out Against the War Coalition of LGBT community organizations and individuals opposed to another war on Iraq. Contingent meets at northwest corner of Drumm and Market streets in SF at 11am to join the tens of thousands who oppose the war. All welcome. Bring signs and noise makers. In the event the US announces war on Iraq, meet at Harvey Milk Plaza at 5pm that day for a rally. Info: 901-8279; caomiln33@yahoo.com. Also: internationalanswer.org

'Hubbub' @ Build

"Hubbub: Queer Spoken Word," a new spoken-word series (third Sunday of each month) hosted by Larry-bob. Tonight's featured readers: Red Jordan Arobateau and Edward Mycuc. Arobateau is author of over 40 GLBTQ novels, poetry & short story collections including *Lucy & Mickey*, *Street Of Dreams*, and *The Black Biker*. He'll read from his newest transsexual fiction and other works. Mycuc's most recent books are *Night Boats* and *Because We Speak The Same Language*, and a chapbook of his cycle *San Francisco, A Song* is forthcoming. Host Larry-bob has published the queer zine *Holy Titclamps* since 1989, produces the weekly email list of non-mainstream events "Queer Things To Do In San Francisco," and co-produces QComedy's gay comedy showcases. Open mike follows featured readers; bring one piece (prose, poetry, whatever) of not more than five minutes to read. \$3 donation (NO-TAFLOP). Sign-up at 2:30pm; reading at 3pm. All ages. At Build, 483 Guerrero St. (near 17th St.). Info: 863-3041; www.holytitclamps.com/hubbub

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Cataract Falls/North Mt. Tam hike. This trail ascends by tumbling falls in a scenic canyon and traverses the lush western woodland slope of Mt. Tamalpais. It's a moderate 8-mile hike with a 2,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; sfhiking.com

Goldfield & Koldewyn**@ Venue 9**

Join singer Cindy Goldfield (Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award) and singer/accompanist Scrumblly Koldewyn (The Cockettes; The Distractions; The Jesters; Cristal and the Guysers) in a rare evening of their award-winning cabaret. Thrill to romantic songs for your valentine and marvel at Cindy's "Great Expectation." 8pm. 252 9th St. (at Folsom). Tix/info: 289-2000; www.venue9.com

'Hot Salsa' @ Lalo's

Lalo's Mexican Eater & Tequila Bar presents "Hot Salsa Sundays," featuring beer, boys, tequila and tacos. Go go boys and give-aways. Upside-down margaritas. 4-7pm. 2247 Market St. Info: 621-LALO

Mon 17**Comedy****@ Spanganga Gallery**

"Alternative Comedy Showcase" auditions for "Just For Laughs" comedy festival in Montreal. The show will be hosted by Mike Spiegelman and will



Pippi Lovestocking and Heklina recall the early days of "Trannyshack" in that club's 7th anniversary celebration at the Stud. See Tuesday.

feature comedians including Bruce Cherry, Dana Cory, Hatch, Jazzman Megaband Trio, Conor Kellicut, Nick Leonard, Janis Lipton, Karen Ripley, and Bridget Schwartz. \$5. 10 pm. 3376 19th St. (near Mission St.). Info: 821-1102; spanganga.org

Tue 18**'Trannyshack' @ The Stud**

Join hostesses Heklina and Pippi Lovestocking as they celebrate the "Trannyshack 7 Year Anniversary." Revel in 7 shockingly entertaining, controversial, and fun filled years, featuring the Greatest Hits of the Past Year, including Precious Moments, Vinsantos, Buttlicka of Guerneville, Metal Patricia, Kennedy, Rusty Hips, Putanesca, and many more Trannyshack favorites. D.J. Pinky Ring spins tunes before and after the show. \$7. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). 9th & Harrison. Info: heklima.com

Truong Tran @ Intersection

Intersection for the Art's 2003 Resident Writer Truong Tran explores the larger issues and concerns of poetry, notions of the marginalized writer, and the location of the writer's voice through a multitude of perspectives and experiences. Plus two other poets expanding notions of poetry by experimenting with form and literary genres, Toni Mirosevic and Tsering Wangmo Dhompa. Discussion moderated by literary critic/film producer/UC Berkeley prof Elaine H. Kim. \$5-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th). Info: 626-2787; theintersection.org

'Spang Bang'**@ Gallery Spanganga**

"The Spang Bang," a 3-4 hour, all-comer, open mic marathon hosted by Sean Kelly, Mike "Spiegelmania" Spiegelman, Dattner and Jim "Rats of Unusual Size" Fourniadi. A place for comics, poets, musicians and freaks to get up on stage to bomb like a mofo. Anything goes (except fire dancing, spinning and breathing). Sign-ups at 7:30pm. First come first served. Performers should watch at least 5 of the other acts; those who do not participate as audience will not be invited back on stage. Free (donations asked for a local charity. January's charity was Larkin Street Youth Services; February's is Cell Space. 3376 19th St. Info: 821-1102; spanganga.org

Wed 19**'Stood Up!' @ The Stud**

Ronn Vigh and Scott Free as Pippi Lovestocking host "Stood Up!" a diverse, outrageous evening of stand-up comedy featuring some of the funniest people around. \$5. 8:30pm showtime. 9th & Harrison. Info: 823-5121

'Swing!' @ San Jose Center

American Musical Theatre of San Jose presents *Swing!*, the original Broadway musical touring production celebrating music and dance of the 1930s and '40s, with Jive, Latin, Swing, West Coast Swing, Hip-Hop Swing, and Country Western Swing. \$40-\$65. 8pm Tue-Fri; 1pm & 6pm Sun. Thru Feb. 23. San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 SImaden Blvd., San Jose. Tix/info: 888-455-SHOW (7469); www.amtsj.org

Thu 20**Legal Services Collaborative @ The Center**

Community forum: The Legal Services Collaborative of the SF LGBT Community Center presents "Housing Issues in the LGBT Community." Come hear about recent developments in housing law for the LGBT community and learn about tenants' rights in SF. Speakers include Tommi Avicolla Mecca of the Housing Rights Committee, Ellen Novogrodsky of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, and Ora Prochnick of New College School of Law. Attendees will have access to a legal advocate trained in housing issues. Admission is free. 6-8pm. Room 300, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia).

Raymond Luczak**@ Main Library**

The James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center presents deaf gay poet/filmmaker Raymond Luczak, who will read from *Silence is a Four-Letter Word: On Art & Deafness and This Way to the Acorns: Poems*, plus soon-to-be-published *Snooty*. Free. 6pm. Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

Robert Moses' Kin @ Cowell Theater

Choreographer/dancer Robert Moses and company offer an encore presentation of Moses' *Word of Mouth*, a full-length dance about the role and importance of the oral tradition of the African-American community, staged in 15 movements and four parts to a patchwork of music including prison songs, calls and hollers, jazz, boogie-woogie, funk, soul, gospel, R&B, and hip hop. \$24.50 (\$18.50 student). 8pm (2pm Sun). Thru Feb. 23. Fort Mason Center (Marina & Buchanan). Tix: 345-7575; robertmoseskin.org

'Amadeus' @ Solano College

Solano College Theatre presents Pertie Shaffer's Tony Award winning *Amadeus*, a play about love, jealousy and treachery. Why did Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart die at such a young age? What were the details of his death. What if Mozart was murdered? Did Salieri do it? Directed by George Maguire in his 30th main stage production at Solano College Theatre. \$18-\$23 (\$8-\$10 students). 7:30pm Feb. 20-27; 8pm Feb 21, 22 & 28; 2pm Feb. 23. 4000 Suisun Valley Rd., Fairfield

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Leather on the go!

by Mister Marcus

We're barely into the New Year and already the leather social calendar is going full-bore ahead with events. Last Wednesday, February 5, Troy Anicete was named Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2003 and advances to compete for the Mr. SF Leather 2003 title on March 8.

In Kansas City, Missouri, the Heartland of America, Mr. and Ms. Leather were chosen over the weekend, and there's more on the way.

This weekend in San Francisco, thousands of bears will converge on the City for International Bear Rendezvous and the competition to select International Mr. Bear 2003. In Chicago, it's the Pantheon of Leather Awards, held in conjunction with the Mr. Cell Block Leather 2003 contest. In Philadelphia, Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather will be chosen in a weekend-long extravaganza. In Baltimore, C.O.M.M.A.N.D. celebrates its 15th anniversary, and Mr. Maryland Leather 2003 will be chosen.

On Thursday, February 13, in SF, Dan Alexander steps aside to sash Mr. Daddy's Leather 2003, and on February 26, Scott Brogan will sash Mr. Edge Leather 2003.

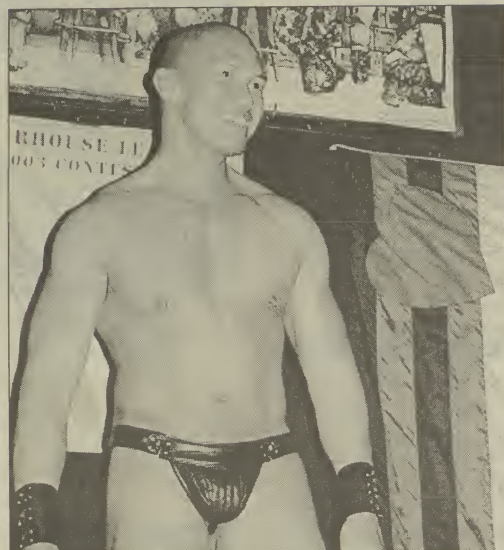
In Dallas, Mr. and Ms. South Plains Leather will be chosen the weekend of February 28-March 1, and International Slave and Master 2003 will also be chosen.

The Inter-Club Fund of San Francisco will host their annual Motorcycle Awards on Saturday, February 15, and that same night in Los Angeles, they'll be picking Mr. Bullet Leather 2003.

Although not a leather event, it might as well be one with the Coronation of the Emperor and Empress of San Francisco on February 22. At least one Empress candidate is a leather faithful, and both Emperor candidates have had their moments in the leather community. Be sure to vote this Saturday, February 15 at various locations around town.

The month of March may not be as fully packed with leather events, but on March 8, Mr. Leather of San Francisco and Mr. Leather of San Diego will be chosen. On March 29, Mr. Los Angeles Leather will be chosen.

April brings us American Brotherhood Weekend to select



Mister Marcus

Troy Anicete was chosen Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2003 last Wednesday, Feb. 5, adding to his already impressive portfolio as a leather maker, Mr. May 2003 on the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar and cover man on that calendar. He advances to compete for the Mr. SF Leather 2003 title on March 8 at the SF Eagle.

American Leather Man, Leather Woman and Leather Boy, and what a great time to be in Washington, D.C., when Cherry blossoms bloom and hordes of IML 2003 contenders are there to network, schmooze and meet their fellow contestants.

In May, of course it's the 25th Anniversary of International Mr. Leather. Think of thousands of leather men frolicking in Chicago — all those hot contestants, all those hot spectators (men and women alike), and a monumental celebration that only Chicago can host.

The coming months look promising for all concerned. I hope you are all able to participate in the wonderful world of leather.

More accolades

Some 14 dignitaries, entities and organizations paid tribute to Alan Selby on Friday night, February 7 at Atelier Gallery on Upper Market St. in San Francisco. The event took place on the occasion of Selby's 74th birthday. Mayor Willie Brown declared it Alan Selby Day in San Francisco, and individuals and organizations

heaped accolades on the grand daddy of leather in San Francisco. It couldn't have happened to a nicer leather dude. Would you believe Alan was speechless?

On Wednesday night, there was only one contestant competing for the Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2003 title, and that was Troy Anicete. He had to get at least 65 percent of the available points from the judges to get the title, and Troy went beyond that. He advances to compete at Mr. SF Leather 2003 next month.

Coming soon: Mr. Daddy's Leather and Mr. Edge Leather. It should be interesting on March 8.

Bare chests

Another enthusiastic crowd witnessed Oscar Laines grab the Mr. May 2004 spot on the SoMa bare chest calendar last Thursday, February 6, with four other contenders facing judges Gavin Middleton, Jack Garcia, Joe Wagenhoffer and Troy Anicete (who is Mr. May 2003). It was another of those rowdy evenings with lots of laughs, guffaws, gabbing, gawking and groping. Powerhouse manager Scott Peterson has a hearty staff that keeps everyone happy. Mr. June 2004 will be chosen on

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, February 13

Mr. Daddy's Leather 2003 at the bar at 2100 tonight. Dan Alexander passes the sash after a most successful year with the title.

Friday, February 14

Dating Game & Valentine Contest at the Russian River Eagle with a bachelor auction to benefit the Sonoma Co. AEF.

Weekend, February 14-16

Action galore from coast to coast: Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather in Philly; Mr. Maryland Leather in Baltimore along with the 15th anniversary of C.O.M.M.A.N.D. In Chicago, Mr. Cell Block Leather 2003 contest at that world-famous watering hole. Manager David Boyer is on top of it all. Also Pantheon of Leather Awards and Mr. and Ms. Olympus Leather hoozie wot!

It's International Bear Rendezvous in San Francisco, and the Int'l. Mr. Bear competition.

Saturday, February 15

In SF, Inter-Club Fund annual Motorcycle Awards

at Most Holy Redeemer Church; 2nd Annual Family Reunion Brunch & Show for Mama's Family at Harvey's South of Market;

Voting for Emperor and Empress in San Francisco.

Mr. Bullet Leather at the Bullet Bar in Southern California.

Wednesday, February 19

Leathermen's Discussion Group at Eros tonight with the subject: "Jocks & Cocks".

Underwear Buddies meet at 933 Harrison. You know the rules, location and modus operandi.

Thursday, February 20

Mr. June 2004 will be chosen tonight at the Powerhouse as the SoMa 2004 calendar gets to the halfway mark. The judges are Corey Caballero, Glennon Sutter, James Scott Geras and Ray Tilton.

Saturday, February 22

Imperial Coronation of Emperor and Empress of San Francisco. Watch for a stupendous anniversary presentation by one of the past monarchs.

PORN

Attention must be paid!

by John F. Karr

Hello, your friendly neighborhood Penis Monger here, with all the latest penis updates you can handle. But first, let's talk about me. The catalogue for the Spring semester at the Harvey Milk Academy is now available, and in it (under the cachet-enhancing category of "Cultural Studies"), you'll find a listing for the seminar I'll be leading on four Tuesday evenings in March, called "The Art of Porn." It sounds highbrow, but I intend to be as lowbrow as possible. So although I'm easily distracted by history, and love dissecting the work of individual directors, we'll dish the dirt in general on performers, alternative porn — whatever gets us excited. Filmmakers and performers will be on hand for Q & A, and some forbidden footage will be screened. Sign up now! (www.Harveymilk.org; (415) 865-5633)

Boyz to men

No sooner had my article about the skateboarding boyz of Defiant Productions appeared than my girlfriend Flotilla sat me down, looked me deep in the eyes, and sighed, "Oh, Kitty. You realize those aren't really straight kids, right?"

Now, you know I'm not one of those gay men who fetishizes straight guys. You won't find me wishin' and hopin' and prayin' for some str8 twink or bodacious bodybuilder to display a few homosexualities. But I was disarmed by the casual attitude of some of those Defiant kids. The lines just aren't as clearly demarcated for their generation as they were for mine. If these are gay boys, however, I gotta say they can't make out for shit. There's something half-throttle about the quality of lots of their sex that leaves room for doubt. And, as I wrote, some fantasizing. Flotilla says, "The closest I've come to seeing actual straight men in gay-ish settings are those Body Shoppe tapes." And, Flotilla, we are indebted for the hours you've spent doing research.

Sock it to me

Meanwhile, if I'm not interested in straight boys making gay porn, I'm wildly titillated to hear about them giving advanced (i.e., homo-ish) attention to their



Tristian and his fellow Defiant skateboarding boyz are disarmingly casual.

willies (a typical straight-boy euphemism that permits them to avoid saying "my cock.") For instance, actor Chris Cooper paid attention to his cock when preparing to play his first nude scene in a movie, opposite Meryl Streep in *Adaptation*. He admitted to a *Hollywood Reporter* interviewer that thinking about it was scary. That was until he encountered

Hollywood's answer to

modesty: the weenie sock. Cooper found the flesh-colored bit of camouflage "almost more embarrassing" than nudity, but the thought of grown men slinking about the set with their weenie sock bobbin' makes me perky. Is a weenie sock form-fitting or loose? How does it stay on? Does the Wardrobe Department do fittings? Is there a black market for used weenie socks? Does Wilem Dafoe wear a leg-warmer, and Tom Cruise a librarian's rubber-finger?

Prosthetic dicks, like the ungainly dick Marky Mark wore to cover his undoubtedly pretty penis when he played Dirk Diggler, are to weenie socks what hair extensions are to hats. The presence of a prosthetic certifies that, discretion be damned, entire squadrons had to weigh in on the star's penis. Someone had to take measurements, make a mold. There were fittings. What about costume and makeup tests? No

matter how delicately the matter was handled, actual people just had to handle the actual matter. And it seems that once the star was equipped, simply everyone would have to check out how he was hangin'. And wouldn't the original need to be insured?

Val Kilmer's cock is swell fodder for conjecture. The cocky star portrays the grossly-hung, late porn star John Holmes in the upcoming *Wonderland*, causing a typically penetrating *Entertainment Weekly* investigator to ask if Kilmer would wear a prosthetic. It's a belittling question. If only Kilmer had answered, "Certainly not, I'm working out with a trainer." Ultimately, a replica of Holmes' mammosity will not be a supporting player in his life story. Because, said Kilmer, "The director thought [the movie] was stronger if you didn't see it." And that's a relief, as it was actually the ugliest wang that ever a porn star waved.

But a prosthetic isn't only for length. Diego Luna, the chunkier of the two boys in *Y Tu Mama También*, briefly flashed a circumcised penis in the movie, but in *Interview* magazine this month he admitted that what we saw was not his member at all. Finding no detail too small, director Alfonso Cuarón, he said, "wanted me to have a very specific type of penis." The uncult actor declined to have a circumcision, claiming, simply, "I like my penis as it is." Sweet, huh?

And now, like a Hollywood star's hopes for his prosthetic penis, this column has exceeded its natural length. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Thursday, February 20th. Know anybody with a great chest that could become a calendar star? Send him in!

Meanwhile back east

They were living it up in Washington, DC and Kansas City, MO last weekend. In the capital, the 32nd annual Scarlet's Bake Sale was staged at Hamburger Mary's (lots of controversy there!) and managed to raise some \$11,000 for Pediatric AIDS. They managed to get Mr. DC Eagle Larry Barat (yum yum), Mr. MAL Alvin York and Mr. Double L Leather Michael Mitchell to strip for the cause. All this and Heaven too? Good show.

In Kansas City, the Dixie Belle Complex hosted the Heart of America Leather Man and Woman contests in conjunction with KC Leather University workshops and demos. They called it a "star studded" panel of judges and MC Stephanie Locked announced that Ms. Shameless would be Heart of America Leather Woman 2003 and Shane Linden is Heart of America Leather Man 2003. Heart of America Leather Boy 2003 Chuck Brackett was chosen at an earlier contest. They advance to compete at ABW in Washington, DC next April.

That winds it up for this week. I'll be in Chicago this weekend judging the Mr. Cell Block Leather contest and not attending Pantheon of Leather Awards. Will bring you the results of all the contests next week. ▼



Here's Neil Guillot, Mr. February 2004 on the SoMa Bear Chest Contest chosen earlier this month.

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Still lighting lamps at 50

Lamplighters' golden 'Princess Ida' at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

by Mark Mardon

When lead player Lanier McNab sings "Minerva! O Hear Me" in Act II of the Gilbert and Sullivan gem *Princess Ida*—the Lamplighters Music Theatre 50th Anniversary production currently at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theatre—you know the goddess of light is paying close attention. No being, divine or beastly human, could resist soprano McNab's gloriously pure, soaring notes as she beseeches Minerva to "Let fervent words and fervent thoughts be mine, That I may lead them to thy sacred shrine!"

As the leader of a breakaway all-women's school in medieval Europe, *Princess Ida*—portrayed by the very beautiful McNab, whose delicate frame gives rise to a surprisingly powerful, precision-controlled voice—must stiffen the backs of her hundred maidenly scholars, secluded in a castle away from all distractions. Ida must get them to break away from their philosophy lessons to double as warriors, for at all costs they must keep men—those nasty creatures!—from ever breaching the castle walls and contaminating the women with their horrid masculinity.

It could be a hundred lipstick lesbians in that castle, but in the hands of W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, *Princess Ida*, which opened January 5, 1884 at London's Savoy Theatre, is daintily Victorian in attitude. The women are seen as defiant feminists who really need men to straighten them out, if only they knew it. Along comes handsome young Prince Hilarion—the vocally powerful Joshua La Force in a superb performance—who will do anything to win over Princess Ida.



David Sasse, Joshua La Force, and Philip Sokolov, crossdressing princes in Lamplighters' *Princess Ida*.

At infancy, the youngsters were contracted to be married, and now that Ida is 21, Hilarion's father King Hildebrand (William Neely) is determined to make good on the agreement with his nemesis, Princess Ida's father King Gama (Philip Lowery), so he turns up the heat on Hilarion, forcing him to act to get Ida down out of her tower and into the marriage bed.

Thus do Hilarion and a couple of buddies (Philip Sokolov as Florian and the especially hunky David Sasse as Cyril) dress up as women to gain entrance to the castle, presenting themselves as new students. To their great cred-

it, the actors never camp it up, trying to play queens. Their essential butchness remains intact; they're not deeply into exploring their inner femininity.

Lady Blanche schemes

All of this is quite silly, of course, and that's pretty much the point of Gilbert and Sullivan. Audiences know what to expect, and the Lamplighters deliver marvelously, as always. (Full disclosure: I served as a Lamplighters chorister for a season or two back in the early '80s.) In G&S, a lame parody of feminism is merely an excuse to sing and dance, have great laughs, and leave the theatre

feeling lighthearted. This you can't help but do when you've got great characters like Lady Blanche, Professor of Abstract Science (Christine Macomber) scheming to take over Princess Ida's school ("I should command here—I was born to rule!"); when comely young lass Melissa (Michele Krapp) hilariously chases a bewigged Florian, smitten with his rough-hewn chin, quickly uncovering his masculine secret; and when the bumbling warrior sons of King Gama (Philip Lowery), Arac, Guron, and Scynthius (Charles Martin, Steve Bower and James MacIlvaine) sing pompously and hilariously about their virtues. ("Bold and fierce, and

strong, ha! ha! For a war we burn! With its right or wrong, ha! ha! We have no concern.")

Princess Ida is pure gold, as befits a 50th anniversary, and while the cast and crew deserve much applause—and they got it on opening night last Friday—the person who merits the most credit is Lamplighters General Director Barbara Heroux, who along with Artistic Director Baker A. Peeples has taken the company to the heights of excellence, achieving true world-renown in the crowded G&S arena, where passions for authenticity and top-notch talents run high. Heroux's staging of *Princess Ida* this time around worked magnificently, the scenes coming at a fast pace, without hitches, and with the best possible display of the chorus and soloists.

Also high on the credit list is Monroe Kanouse, conductor of the first-rate Lamplighters Orchestra, who sped through the three acts with verve. Not once did the energy let down. The sets by Peter Crompton (based on John Gilkerson's earlier design) brought out the music's enchantment. They had an inspiring, airy lightness to them, especially the castles, inside and out, which were set to a backdrop of spectacular skies, fit for the Sistine Chapel. Against all this the elaborate costumes stood out with crisp clarity, dazzling with their bright color and flair. Everything worked grandly, just as G&S would have wanted it. The Lamplighters have done themselves proud, becoming polished to golden perfection. ▼

The Lamplighters' *Princess Ida* plays Feb. 14-16 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theatre.
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LSO Live

◀ page 30

ner sings Aeneas as though it's no trouble at all, which is so wrong it's not even impressive. Berlioz knew that giving the tenor a score to grapple with was the surest way to make a hero out of him. Vickers and Domingo wrestled the part down and left no doubt about the struggle involved. The strain—their singing as a "deed"—was part of the point.

It takes the ghosts of dead Trojans in Act V to make a vocal warrior out of Heppner's nice-guy Aeneas. This is what's known as too little, too late.

Much as I've admired Michelle de Young in her numerous San Francisco appearances, she's simply overparted as Dido. She can sing the role, with musicality and sensitivity, but hers is a short-breathed Dido who doesn't come within catapult's range of nobility. She, too, has a real fifth act in her, but it's a cramped affair, sung with nothing held in reserve, which her great predecessors in the role have had.

I can't be alone in considering "Nuit d'ivresse" second only to Tristan and Isolde's "O sink hernieder, Nacht der Liebe" among ecstatic operatic love duets. Listening to Heppner and deYoung, I couldn't suppress the impression of an aging pair of country lovers on the farmhouse

porch swing, crooning about a love that might have been had they only taken the chance.

Petra Lang's Cassandra is a hectoring schoolmarm who sounds like she walked in from an oratorio next door. Some of the smaller roles, like Toby Spence's Hylas, stand out, but among them, sadly, not Kenneth Tarver's Iopas, who gets one of the opera's best arias.

What's right about this being a *LSO Live* recording is that the orchestra, chorus and Davis provide the real heroism. I can't honestly say that Davis' interpretation has grown noticeably—or that it needed to. He always had an uncanny way of getting under this weird score's skin, and believing in it.

There are as many passages that sound like Donizetti and Offenbach as like Wagner, but Davis has a commendable way of just letting it all hang out, and letting the score's conspicuous seams show. No other conductor in my experience of the work has shown his genius at mining the modal writing Berlioz used to such wondrous effect in this endlessly arresting score. Still, drop the needle anywhere on his first recording, and you'll hear more greatness than at any moment in this laudable effort.

The Met unveiled its newest *Les Troyens* production last Monday. Ben Heppner's Aeneas is the only significant carryover from the new Davis recording. ▼

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- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your

local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
 - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
 - Halcion® (triazolam)
 - Hismanal® (astemizole)
 - Orap® (pimozide)
 - Propulsid® (cisapride)
 - Rythmol® (propafenone)
 - Seldane® (terfenadine)
 - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
 - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**
 - Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
 These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Other Special Considerations:** KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.
- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:** Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new

or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:** The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding:** Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- If you have liver problems:** If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- If you have diabetes:** Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia:** Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Ref.: 03-5177-R6

Revised: January, 2002

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Lemper: 'There's a lot out there. I want to keep all the dimensions open.'

One day with Ute Lemper

Catching up with the international chanteuse

by Gregg Shapiro

The first thing you hear when you put *But One Day* (Decca), the new album by international chanteuse Ute Lemper, in your CD player is the song "I Surrender." It's one of a handful of songs written by the renowned singer. After years of interpreting the work of other composers, from Kurt Weill to Tom Waits to Elvis Costello, Lemper shares some of her own English-language compositions. Especially notable are "Lena," a song about a friend of hers who's the child of Holocaust survivors, and "Little Face," about Lemper's children. The album also includes her dazzling interpretations of songs by Weill, Astor Piazzolla, and Jacques Brel.

Gregg Shapiro: Do you prefer to

keep your songwriting process solitary, or are there songwriters with whom you would like to collaborate?

Ute Lemper: I certainly want to keep collaborating. These experiences that I had with Philip Glass, Michael Nyman, and others! Laurie Anderson [violin on "Lena"] is on the album, and it's wonderful to have her. She just jumped into the room and said, "Let me play something," and then she improvised over the song, which was great. I definitely want to sing songs from the theatrical repertoire — there's still a lot out there that I didn't record yet. I want to keep all the dimensions open.

But One Day serves as a bridge between more traditional material and the experimental approach you took on *Punishing Kiss*. Do you feel like you're caught between the two worlds?

I don't feel caught at all. I'm a free person, and I love following my instincts and being creative. I don't like being anywhere where I have to follow too many rules. Whether I sing a Jacques Brel or a Kurt Weill, I sing it as if it's a contemporary song, with the spirit, anarchy and anger of a contemporary person.

I don't know what the identity of today's music really is. There are these great dinosaurs that

have survived over 25 years: Bruce Springsteen, Sting, Randy Newman, Billy Joel, Santana, but maybe not Joni Mitchell. Maybe she didn't survive. People hunger for music which is coming from a real person with history and experience.

It's interesting that you should bring up Joni Mitchell, because I don't think people appreciate the history and experience that she brings to the table in her work.

Yes! And how much she inspired other people at the same time. If you compare what she wrote to some other female artists who sell a lot of records, it's full of wonderfully complicated, multilayered performances and arrangements. She is a genius!

You perform two songs by Astor Piazzolla, "Buenos Aires" and "Oblivion." What's most appealing to you about performing his compositions?

I never dared to touch the tango world of Astor Piazzolla because my Spanish is not the tango-specific dialect necessary to master it. I kind of gave up on it, then I was with an Argentine friend who said, "You must sing this." The next day, I adapted the songs into English. They are very poetic, colorful and deeply passionate. I sang them onstage, and people loved it. ▼

The disappointments

The Pretenders have a 'Loose Screw'

by Gregg Shapiro

Coming three years after the disappointing *Viva El Amor!*, the latest album by The Pretenders, *Loose Screw* (Artemis), doesn't hold much promise for the band. The annoyance of opening tune "Lie to Me" had me fast-forwarding to the Jamaican beat (supplied by original drummer Martin Chambers) of "Give Me Some Time," which recalls "Private Life" from the band's groundbreaking 1980 self-titled debut.

Musically and lyrically, *Loose Screw* comes up short, especially when compared to the band's essential return to form in 1984's *Learning To Crawl*. Despite Chrissie Hynde's distinctive phrasing and choked-up vocals, most of the tracks, including "Know Who Your Friends Are" and a cover of All Seeing Eye's "Walk Like a Panther," are not earth-shaking. Songs such as "Complex Person" and "Saving Grace" are below par.

Bon Jovi has also been in a decline for a few years, a fact that you can hear loud and clear on *Bounce* (Island). Ask any mullet-wearing Bon Jovi fan, and he'll probably blame frontman Jon Bon Jovi. Mostly, they just sound like a band anxious to recapture the youthful energy of its '80s hair-band glory. The desperation is there on songs such as "Everyday" and "Love Me Back to Life." A couple of songs ("Misunderstood" and "The Wrong Side of Right") make reference to running "all the lights," which sounds as if someone is looking for escape. With an album like this, more of a thud than a bounce, now might be the time for Bon Jovi to take that leap.

Sometimes it's hard to reconcile the glossy and commercial Goo Goo Dolls with the band's early persona as punky, replacements-inspired rockers. You don't have to go back that far to hear the difference, just 10 years, to 1993's *Superstar Car Wash*. But then success came calling for their 1995 *Boy Named Goo*, and the rest is

musical history. On *Gutterflower* (Warner Brothers), the Goo Goo Dolls themselves sound as if they are also trying to reconcile these dual identities, with mixed results.

Candy pass

Counting Crows seemed to experience success right from the start, with the release of their major-label debut disc *August and Everything After* 10 years ago. While they haven't reignited the initial spark, they do continue to plug away, as is evident on *Hard Candy* (Geffen). "American Girls," which sounds like something you might have heard on '70s Top 40 radio and features backing vocals by Sheryl Crow, probably causes cavities. While it's hard to fault a band that thinks that some of its songs "may contain trace amounts of Joni Mitchell," it's hard to calculate just what their contribution is worth.

When the nearly comprehensive Cracker hits compilation *Garage D'Or* was released in 2000, some thought it signaled an end to the group, especially when the buzz about a Camper Van Beethoven reunion started. David Lowery, of both Cracker and CVB, has proven the naysayers wrong by releasing the ironically titled *Forever* (Back Porch/Virgin). Cracker hasn't crumbled, its unique sense of humor still as salty as a Saline, especially on "Shine" (which name-checks Burt Bacharach), "Don't Bring Us Down," "Miss Santa Cruz County," and "Superfan." The biggest disappointment here is that more people aren't listening to Cracker.

Jam-band deluxe Rusted Root put on its party duds for the appropriately titled *Welcome to the Party* (Island). All dressed up in their funkier finery, Rusted Root encourage you to push the furniture against the wall and roll up the rugs so that the dancing can begin. How this level of soulful funk will sit with longtime listening hasn't been determined. But the party really gets going on "Weave" and continues through the remix-ready "People of my Village." Kick off your Birkenstocks, roll up your tie-dyed

sleeves, and dance. ▼

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Cunningham Co.

Arts cover

arent need to pander to shifting taste, style, audience reaction, criticism or market forces. He has been around for so long that there is nothing standing in his way. He is the luckiest sort of artist, free not to care, free to pursue his fascinations, free to be way-out. There must be a lesson there.

At Zellerbach Hall last Friday night, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company presented a 1956 work, "Suite for Five"; a US premiere, "Fluid Canvas" (2002); and a MinEvent with Kronos Quartet. The "MinEvent" refers to a Cunningham format in which he pulls sections from several dances, makes up new sequences, and throws caution to the wind, sending the dancers out onstage to see what happens. This MinEvent found the Kronos Quartet scattered around the auditorium fiddling away at a predictably annoying John Cage piece, "Thirty Pieces for String Quartet" (1982), which offered the players rules ("Begin at any time within a 45-second period, and end at any time within another 45-second period that overlaps the first by 15



Merce Cunningham Dance Company members in *Pictures: To Cunningham, dance is a form, not an expression.*

seconds") rather than giving the listener any traditional sense of musical satisfaction. But Cage made a career of that.

"Suite for Five" featured Cage music that seemed almost melodic compared to what was heard the rest of the evening. The "prepared" piano was played both at the keyboard and inside the instrument, where the pianist

plucked and strummed at the strings. The dance on view was full of long-held balances, impossible-looking twisted lunges and thigh-killing squats, followed by rapid-fire sections of arm-waving, floor-scurrying, and space-slicing leg movements.

Cunningham dancing is never sexy, even accidentally. The vocabulary is almost mechanical, but

brought interestingly alive by his array of phenomenal dancers. There is never any moment where one dance looks like another, never an opportunity to compare two side-by-side arabesques, not one chance to watch a fantastic dancer beaming with the joy of movement. No, this is all about random beauty, biological complexity, life on the theoretical level. To Cunningham, dance is a form, not an expression.

The MinEvent opened with a stage filled with dancers, 16 of them, a huge contingent who walked off one by one, leaving a few to pick up the pattern of simultaneous solos. A few big group sections came the closest to offering any truly visceral excitement — would they run into each other in the midst of all the unconnected dancing? The Kronos Quartet was the opposite of virtuosic, the idea of the musical score being more interesting than the actual sounds being produced, as could be said about much of the choreography. The décor, by Robert Rauschenberg, was a colorfully painted canvas that slowly climbed the exposed back wall of

the theatre.

"Fluid Canvas," the new piece, featured visuals by the digital artists Marc Downie, Paul Kaiser and Shelley Eshkar. Data from a "motion capture" session of Cunningham's hand movements was transformed into imagery which was projected onto the stage, thus allowing the choreographer's presence to "accompany" the dancers. "Lifelike," the animated décor that they created from this motion capture, was generated in real time for the performance, just as John King's auto-shop sound score changed structure randomly for the performances. The choreography for 16 dancers offered the same interesting, often virtuosic movements, fleeting partnerships, and a few opportunities for phrases in variation for the whole company. There were a few moments when the stage filled, like a teeming aquarium, with stillness, darting movement and graceful slowness, all at the same time. This is the essence of Cunningham: fascinating and infuriating, beautiful and boring, calculating and intuitive, all at the same time. ▼

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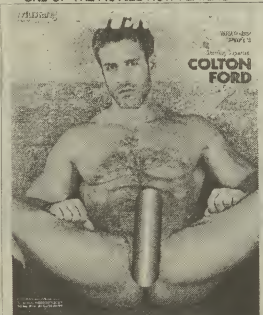
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Kimo's rocks

by Sweet Lips

Kimo's, the legendary gay bar at 1351 Polk St., is now under the direction of Tyler, and it has some great bands in the upstairs penthouse most nights. Call 885-4535 for information on who is appearing. Of course you know that I am bartending there on Saturday, Sunday and Mondays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. I've joined the staff, which includes the handsome Brian, Danny "Legs" Gench, the beautiful Ms. Harlowe, and many others, so come on down and join in the hilarity.

While in the neighborhood, don't forget to check out the Cinch Saloon at 1723 Polk St. They have a great group of bartenders, including "Ya hear me" Ronnie Lynn, and, of course, the handsome Woody and his Daddy Jim Mangus, and I can't forget Tim. Drop in and tell 'em I sent you!

Coronation time is almost upon us. Anjelica Deveros for Empress — one of the true girls — will be joining the 10:30 p.m. "Til Friday" show at Club Rendez-Vous (1312 Polk St.) on Friday, Feb. 14. Happy Valentines Day! This should be one of the most delicious entertainment ventures in years, don't miss it! L. James and David Kapp are going to have a great new look at the club for Coronation Week, especially for the Portland Party on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 11 a.m. — a great fundraiser for Mame. Yes, I'll be doing a guest spot at the Club RV for the Portland Party, Tyler of Kimo's has OK'd it. Remember that voting day for Emperor and Empress is Saturday, Feb. 15. Vote from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Project Open Hand lobby, 730 Polk St. The In-Town show is Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Club RV, always a great event.

Finally, a big welcome home to Dick Deemer from Puerto Valarta — again! All I want to know is, did you see my Sergio? Did he ask for me? Oh, and I do hope Ramon was okay.

And on one last private note to Suzie Cartwright of Diva's (formerly The Motherlode), the transgender-friendly bar at 1081 Post St.: How come you don't let Grant come see me — or you? Inquiring minds want to know. ▼



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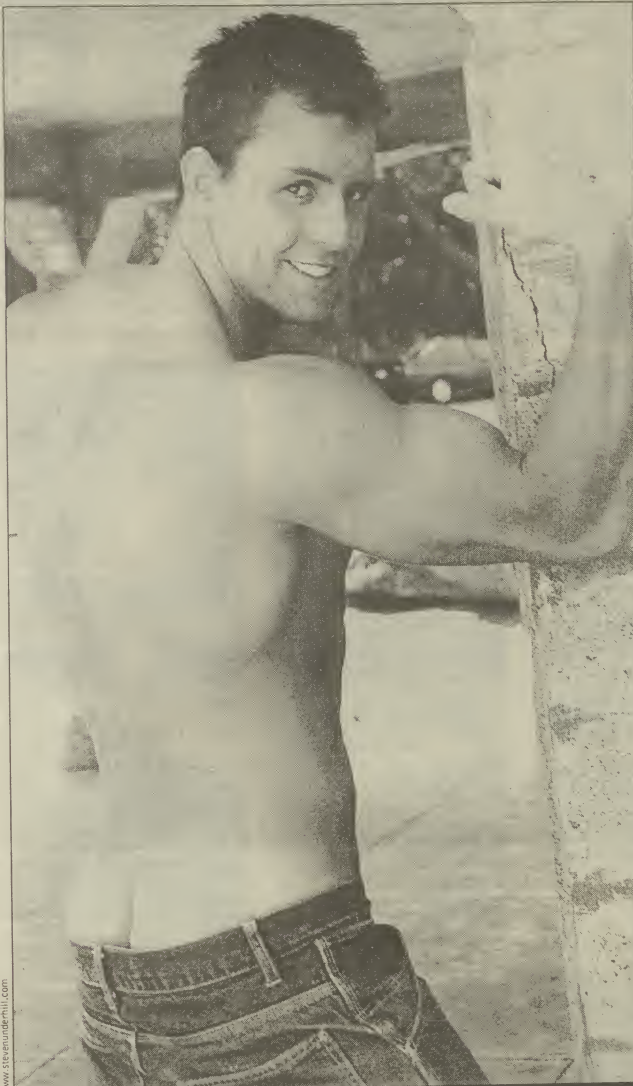
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5'8" 140# hairy muscled tattooed GWM skinhead seek similar-sized hairy fuck buddy. No strings or games, just swapping uninhibited rough sweat butt-fucks. Poz; no PNP; 4:20 okay. ☎ 72371

Hot Passionate East Bay Bottom
39yro. W/M 5'9" 150lbs, blond swimmer build 8' open to most scenes. Looking for top men for hot sex, possible relationship. Can travel to S. F. ☎ 72372

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Complete oral service, with no reciprocation necessary, delivered to trim, mature, HIV- guys who love getting head, by SF GWM HIV-. ☎ 72373

Big Men Wanted By Married WM
42 5'9", 210 beard, hairy, fat 6", big balls, huge load. Am French a/p, also like jo, being watched. You are 30+, 200+ any race. ☎ 72378

"Batter Up"
WM 38 5'10" 190lb blonde/blue muscle guy wants field club or lower box date for Giant's games. Call anytime. ☎ 72381

Taker Needs Giver
Attractive professional w/vacuum like suction looking for other professionals for during the workday fun. Discreet Financial District location or your location. Uncut A+. ☎ 72382

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W/M 46, 6', 165lbs, moustache, moderately hairy. I'm looking for younger effeminate looking/acting men who enjoy giving slow, sensual oral pleasure. No S&M, pain or drugs. ☎ 72384

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 5'11", 175#, 38, nice build, looking for in-shape bubble butt guy for over the knee bare-ass spanking, role-playing and plowing. ☎ 72385

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Will make you choke. I'm seeking guys who are also hung 8, 9, or 10 inches for fun, sucking, etc. ☎ 72395

Seeking Hairy, Hung, Black Oral Bottom
Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72396

I Kick Back! I'm Hung 9-Inches
And I'm looking for other guys hung 8, 9, 10 inches for 69 to service me, watch videos, etc. Call me. ☎ 72397

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Buddy who wants to kick back. Special plus if your cut and hung thick. I could be topped. Me GWM, healthy, negative. Like to make a buddy feel good. ☎ 72398

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Handsome alpha sub looking for part-time position. Me 44yo, 5'10", 175#. Enjoy all types between the ages of 30 to 50. ☎ 72399

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Smooth masculine trim WM 43 seeks another trim guy with facial or body hair from 20 to your 40's for naked fun or friendship, any race or height. ☎ 72409

Seeking Middle Aged, Balding Hung Oral Bottom.
Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72410

"Older Men"

WLM 47, 6', 165lbs. I enjoy making senior men feel good all over with lots of affection & slow, sensual oral pleasure. Husky/heavy, bearded A+. No pain, S&M, gay scene but smoking ok. ☎ 72411

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GM top (not versatile) 68 5'7", 155 need G.W. masc./submissive bottom. ☎ 72379

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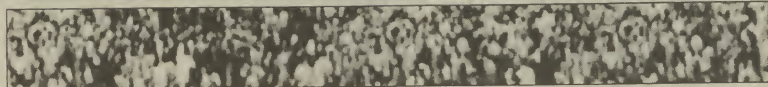
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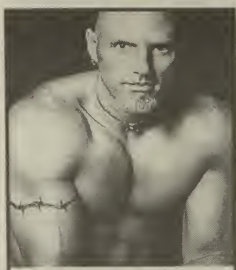
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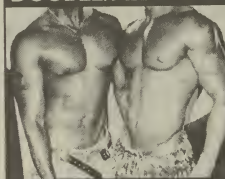
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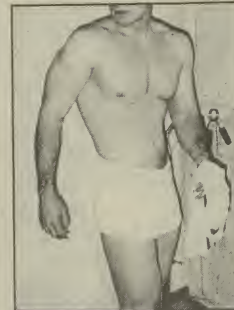
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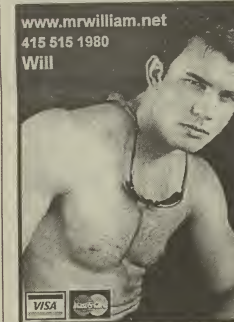
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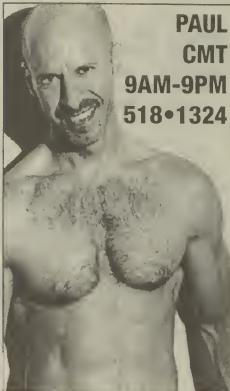
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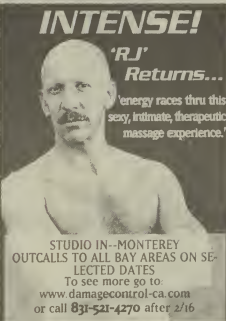
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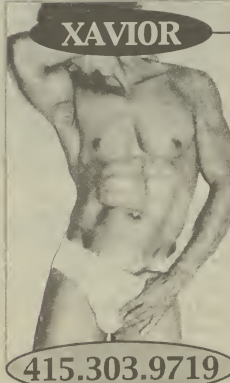
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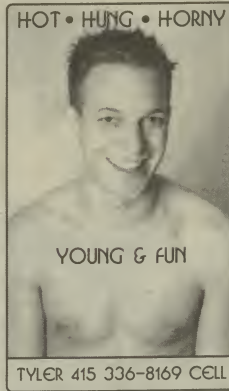
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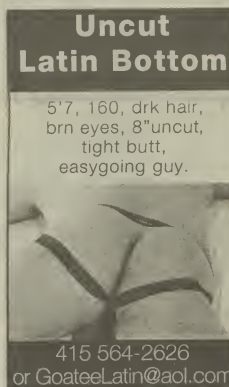
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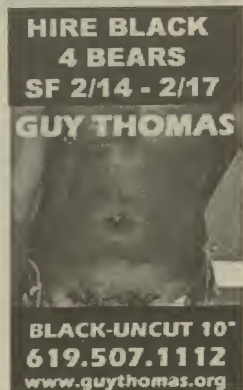
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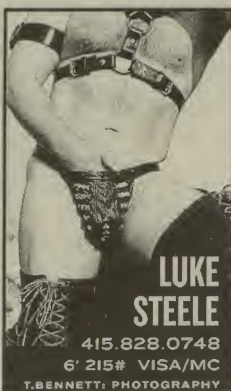
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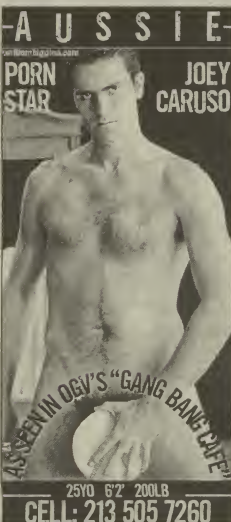
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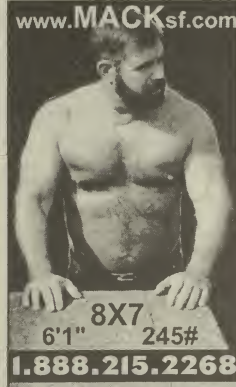
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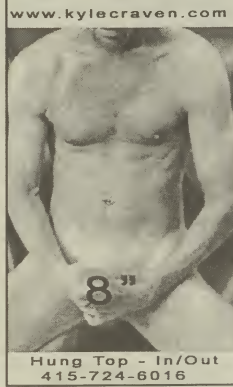
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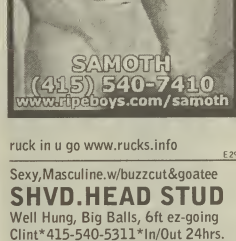
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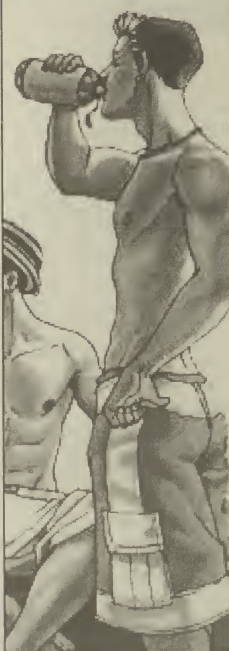
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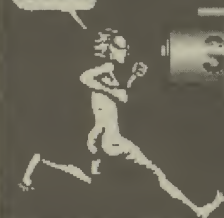
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An open letter to thank our community

After a year of redundant and unnecessary Congressional inquiries and federal investigations, the STOP AIDS Project is now vindicated. A report from the Department of Health and Human Services has confirmed what we assured our supporters all along: All of our work is in full compliance with federal laws and local guidelines.

On behalf of the STOP AIDS Project's volunteers, staff and board of directors, I want to thank the hundreds of individuals and organizations who wrote and called us with their words of support during this difficult time. I also want to assure you that we will not allow these struggles to change our commitment to speaking openly and honestly about sex.

During these investigations, it became evident that the scrutiny we attracted was not about fair oversight. It was about the politics of abstinence. For two decades, we have worked in partnership with other groups and individuals to ensure that gay and bisexual men have the information and support they need to care for themselves and each other—the very definition of community. This belief that all people have the right to safer and more fulfilling sex lives has made us a high-profile target for conservative politicians promoting an anti-gay, abstinence-only agenda.

There is nothing obscene in talking about sex in a way that is meaningful and respectful of gay men's lives. What is obscene is that sound prevention techniques are on trial. Despite hundreds of hours and tens of thousands of taxpayers' dollars spent on these investigations, there were no significant findings. After all that time and effort, the only government recommendation was for a minor change to our time sheets, which we had already implemented.

The worst outcome of these investigations has been to divert attention from the real issue—that gay and bisexual men need more explicit and powerful support for their health than ever before. We know that prevention works. With your ongoing assistance, in the future we can depend less on restrictive government funds and continue our efforts.

Here's how you can help:

Volunteer. All our work is developed by and for the community. Our workshop facilitators and outreach workers are your peers. The models in our social marketing campaigns are your friends. Community advisory boards plan and direct our work with HIV-positive men, HIV-negative men, young men, older men, African-American men, leather men, and queer transguys. Our work is as diverse as the men who contribute to it. If you're interested in volunteering, call Michael at 415.575.0747.

Make a donation. In order to reduce the Project's reliance on federal funding, we desperately need to increase our unrestricted resources. Making a contribution to our agency is tax-deductible and helps us to continue our groundbreaking work without fear of censorship or attack.

- A donation of \$50 makes it possible to purchase 500 condoms for distribution in bars and sex clubs.
- A donation of \$500 makes it possible to hold a frank workshop with up to 25 leather and fetish men.
- A donation of \$1,000 makes it possible to hold a community forum where up to 50 HIV-positive men can speak openly with one another about the challenges they face playing safe with other guys.
- A donation of \$5,000 makes it possible to hold a weekend retreat where up to 20 young gay and bi men can increase their safer sex knowledge and share their thoughts on coming out, dating and partying safely.

We at the STOP AIDS Project pledge to continue providing opportunities for gay, bisexual and transgender men to build social connections and develop strategies and skills to lead full and healthy sex lives. We will always be sex positive. We will fight political pressure and will fight side-by-side with you to resist others' attempts to inflict homophobia within or on our community.

We will continue to provide opportunities for guys to meet potential lovers and friends who share similar interests and to build a stronger, creative and loving community. And we will consistently evaluate our work's effectiveness and relevance for gay and bisexual men in San Francisco, changing as needed to best meet your needs.

Despite more than a year of political pressure, we remain passionately committed to preventing HIV transmission. We are grateful for your ongoing assistance and urge you to support our vision for the future of HIV prevention and gay men's health—a future that celebrates sex and the lives of gay and bisexual men.

Sincerely,

Darlene K. Weide, MPH, MSW • Executive Director

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For questions, call Brian Byrdsong at 415.575.0150 x257. Please send credit card info or a check payable to: STOP AIDS Project 2128 15th St., SF, CA, 94114